

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

GOT A NEWS TIP?
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POLL RESULTS

Do you intend to sign the petition of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. opposing the grant of improved status to alien workers in the CNMI?

Yes	52
No	115
Already did	8
Undecided	4
No opinion	6

Sunday, December 15, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



FSM president's chief of staff returns to his childhood home.

► PAGE 7



Task Force Guam is counting down its last remaining days in Afghanistan.

► PAGE 19



Frauline G. Arroyo wins as "Mr. Tomboy" in Saipan.

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**E-Land's MRI or Honest Profit? It's now up to governor. PAGE 2
 CUC sues to collect \$18.9M from CHC, PSS, central govt. PAGE 3**

No CW extension decision until Jan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
 haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez is not expected to decide on the CNMI's request to extend by five years the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program until January next year, despite an earlier commitment from department staff that a recommendation would be finished before the end of 2013.

With just two weeks left in December, we may not get a decision until January.

—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan



"That [January] is not as fast as I wanted, but it will be almost six months ahead of the deadline set by the CNRA

[Consolidated Natural Resources Act]," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday.

To this day, there is still uncertainty whether some 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers, mostly from Asian countries such as the Philippines, will be permitted to work in the CNMI after Dec. 31, 2014.

If the CW program is not extended beyond 2014, the CNMI loses immediate access to these foreign workers.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Saipan

See EXTENSION on Page 4

7-year-old tops CNMI Got Talent

By MARK RABAGO
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 ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A 7-year-old singing prodigy is this year's grand prize winner of the 3rd Annual CNMI Got Talent Search, held Saturday night at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Magellan Restaurant.

Bernice Shane Sabino's soaring rendition of *O Holy Night* bested 11 other per-

formances in the talent competition held annually by Bridge Capital LLC.

Sabino first bagged \$1,000 for winning the Governor's Choice Award before duking it out with Marianas High School's Rhythm N' Harmony in the finals after judges named them the Top 2 of the talent competition.

Rhythm N' Harmony, which already See TALENT on Page 4

Reyes found guilty of all charges



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A court marshal and a Corrections officer lead Alfredo E. Reyes from a courtroom after the verdict was read Friday morning, finding him guilty of all charges for sexually abusing a then-16-year-old girl in 2009.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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 REPORTER

Alfredo Evangelista Reyes was found guilty on Friday of all charges for sexually abusing a then-16-year-old girl in 2009. He faces a possible maximum sentence of 93 years in prison.

After deliberating for less than two hours on Friday, the six Superior Court jurors reached a unanimous verdict, finding the 51-year-old Reyes guilty of three counts of sexual

abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found the defendant guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

Camacho said he finds the victim's testimony credible and that he believes that Reyes sexually abused her at Laulau

Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock

See REYES on Page 4



MARK RABAGO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos congratulates 7-year-old Bernice Shane Sabino for winning the Governor's Choice Award during last Saturday's 3rd Annual CNMI Got Talent Search at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Sabino later won the grand prize of the competition after beating Rhythm N' Harmony in the finals showdown.

Local

E-Land's MRI or Honest Profit? It's now up to governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

It is now up to Gov. Eloy S. Inos whether the government would negotiate with South Korea-based E-Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. or Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd. on the lease of 40,827 square meters of public lands in San Antonio to build a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said a review and evaluation committee submitted to the governor their findings on the proposals of both MRI and Honest Profit.

"We gave the governor our findings and recommendations.

It's now up to him to select and make the announcement," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the governor is still going over the proposals and recommendations.

"The recommendations are still under review with the governor," Demapan said.

MRI and Honest Profit were shortlisted among five investors that responded to a request for proposal to lease the San Antonio public lands. The government review committee interviewed and listened to the presentation of MRI and Honest Profit on Nov. 22 at different times.

The other three that didn't make it to the short list for the

San Antonio lot were KSA Corp., INNOASSET, and Future Ent. Inc & Reading Investment & Securities and Korea Asset Investment Corp.

Once the government selects between MRI and Honest Profit, the winning company would then negotiate a land lease with DPL. Later, DPL and the investor have to request the Legislature's approval for the land lease.

Last Thursday, the review and evaluation committee also interviewed and listened to the presentation of the two shortlisted companies for a lease of adjacent public lands in Marpi, also for the development of up to two new hotels with at least 200 rooms each.

These were South Korea

giant E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. and Tan Holdings, vying for the lease a total of 99,005 square meters of public lands in Marpi.

The three other investors not shortlisted were: 1) Delta America Inc. and Joong Ang Corp. 2) Honest Profit International Ltd. and 3) KSA Corp.

The review and evaluation committee was composed of members from DPL, Zoning Office, departments of Public Works and Commerce, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The CNMI currently has shortage of hotel rooms to accommodate the needs of the tourism industry, so DPL's issuance of an RFP for land lease to build new hotels come at an appropriate time.

US House budget spares CNMI programs from sequestration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

the Commonwealth and the rest of the 2013 farm bill are enacted into law.

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Sablan has been pushing for the CNMI's inclusion in the SNAP, which is seen to add \$12 million to \$24 million into the local economy compared to the current food stamp assistance block grant program.

"As the holiday recess neared without conference committee agreement on the farm bill, H.R. 2642, House Agriculture Committee

Chair Frank Lucas (R-Oklahoma) convinced the House to pass an extension of the 2008 farm policies effective until the end of January. This extension will give conferees time to complete their work; otherwise the agriculture law enacted in 1949 goes into effect on Jan. 1," Sablan said.

The U.S. Senate has not yet agreed to the extension, but may vote this week, Sablan said.

Key House negotiators say they are close to an agreement and will continue to work through the holidays to ensure that Congress can enact the farm bill in January, he also said.

"Meanwhile, I will continue to work to be sure the Northern Marianas SNAP pilot program is a part of the final conference agreement, so that food stamp benefits for our people are on par with the rest of the United States," Sablan added.

» Decision on \$33M pilot SNAP study for CNMI pushed back to January



MEMORIAL FACELIFT

Flags of the United States and other countries flutter in the wind in a spruced up Armed Forces Memorial by the Beach Road-Microl intersection in San Jose. On this spot more than 69 years ago, on June 15, 1944, when the U.S. Armed Forces invaded Saipan, the 6th Marines encountered stiff resistance and suffered heavy losses. This memorial honors those who gave their lives in the service of their country. An island beautification project led by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, along with donation from P&A Corp. and other entities, led to the ongoing war memorial's major facelift.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas

Mark Your Calendars!

Venue: Paseo de Marianas, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Dec. 21

Christmas Costume and Parade of Floats Contest (Carolinian Affairs Office to American Memorial Park)

Marianas Walking Association

5K Christmas Health Walk

(Registration at 4:30 p.m., start time 5 p.m.)

Dec. 22

Pre-Christmas Special Entertainment

Dec. 27

Welcome to New Year Entertainment

Dec. 28

Mochitsuki Festival

Dec. 29

Welcome to New Year Entertainment

Dec. 30

Welcome to New Year Entertainment

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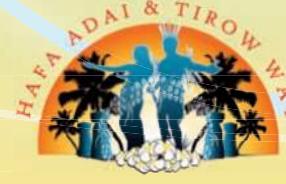
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X-MAS IN THE MARIANAS

"The 8th Christmas Tree Decoration Contest"
"Drawing Contest"
"Float & Costume Competition"
"Christmas Caroling Contest"
"Mochitsuki Festival"
"Welcome to New Year event"

Friends of Paseo De Marianas

CUC sues to collect \$18.9M from CHC, PSS, central govt

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has filed separate lawsuits to collect utility billings totaling \$18.87 million from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Public School System, and the CNMI government.

Attorney Michael White filed the lawsuits in an e-filing in the Superior Court last Tuesday but the court's clerk reviewed the filings only on Friday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is handling the cases. The CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General Civil Division, has 20 days to respond to the lawsuits.

Excluding the exhibits, each lawsuit has only two pages.

White stated in the lawsuits that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. owes CUC

\$9,690,875.67, together with pre-judgment interest, for utility services.

White said that PSS and the CNMI government owe CUC \$5,936,931.55 and \$1,241,137, respectively, together with pre-judgment interest, for utility services.

Despite demand, the lawyer said that CHCC, PSS, and the CNMI government have "failed, refused, and neglected" to pay the sums in full or in part.

CUC wants the court to issue a judgment against the defendants for the principal sums of \$18.87 million, together with pre-judgment interest and court costs.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, during Tuesday's deliberation with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, disclosed that government receivables pose a burden for

residential customers and CUC itself as money for its operation is being diverted to pay for fuel.

Fletcher said that despite efforts to resolve these issues in the past, such as a memorandum of understanding and other resolutions, CUC remains unsuccessful in collecting arrears from its debtors.

In papers it filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission last Friday, CUC disclosed that CNMI government agencies currently owe the utilities corporation about \$20 million—representing 20 percent of CUC's annual revenue and 100 percent of its electric base rate revenue.

If this amount and all future bills are paid on time, this would lower LEAC charges for all customers by about \$5.5 million and increase the amount of cash available to by \$2.3 million, CUC said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

RELATED NEWS

'If govt pays its CUC bills, power charges would go down \$5.5M'

PAGE 9



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DPH Immunization Program

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- Hepatitis B is the common cause of chronic liver disease in the CNMI.
- Chronic liver disease is marked by the gradual destruction of liver tissue over time.

The CNMI Division of Public Health and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, are conducting a

Hepatitis B Serosurvey

among first grade children to see if they are protected against hepatitis B.



The survey will be performed on school campuses and will consist of a **FINGER PRICK** similar to that of a blood sugar test. This small sample will be taken and tested for Hepatitis B. All test results will be kept strictly confidential and this survey will greatly benefit the CNMI by providing important information on how common hepatitis B infection is for our children.



So please have your first grade child participate in this survey to know if your child is **PROTECTED** against Hepatitis B Virus infection.

For more information please contact Public Health Immunization Program at 236 8745.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM



Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

**Ask if your baby passed the test.
If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.**

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing is funded by the Cooperative Agreement for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration.



DoD budget for 2014 goes to US Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed H.R. 441, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014, by a vote of 349 ayes to 69 noes. H.R. 441 authorizes and sets policy for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2014. The bill authorizes \$552.1 billion for Department of Defense and \$80.7 billion in funding for overseas contingency operations. The bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

The bill makes significant progress on the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. While the bill continues to hold the Department of Defense accountable for providing updated cost data and associated reports, it allows additional U.S. and Government of Japan funds for construction in Guam. In particular, the language authorizes an \$86 million Marine Corps hangar that directly supports the realignment. It also allows nearly \$114 million in Government of Japan contributions to be used for site improvements at North Ramp on Andersen Air Force Base in support of realignment efforts. It also allows for greater use of funds for planning and design efforts that will support future military construction.

The bill also fully authorizes military construction at

Andersen Air Force Base that support selective hardening and dispersal of assets. The conferees recognized the importance of the Air Force's Pacific Airpower Resiliency program in Guam, which is a component of countering anti-access, area of denial threats in the region.

The NDAA further reauthorizes the Sikes Act to provide critical protections for fish, wildlife and other natural resources on military installations through 2019. It also fully funds the Navy's Sea Cadet Corps, supports modernization of the B-52 long range strike platform, and restricts the retirement of the Global Hawk Block 30 aircraft until 2015.

"I applaud the efforts of Chairman Buck McKeon, Ranking Member Adam Smith, Chairman Carl Levin and Ranking Member Jim Inhofe for working to develop this compromise legislation," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "This year's defense authorization bill sends a clear signal that we are moving forward with strategic military initiatives that directly support the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. The bill demonstrates to our allies in the region that we are serious about the rebalance strategy, and we are putting significant resources towards

this strategic initiative. This is an important step forward given the inaction of the past several years.

"H. Res. 441 provides critical authorities for our service-members, and I hope the Senate will act responsibly and pass this compromise legislation. Failing to pass the bill by the end of this year would break a 51 year streak of passing a defense authorization bill and signal true dysfunction in Congress."

A table of the President's budget request and a summary of Bordallo's requested and supported provisions included in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014 are listed below:

- Fully authorizes for appropriation \$494.6 million in military construction funds for Guam including \$85.6 million for a USMC aircraft hangar at North Ramp on Andersen AFB which directly supports the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam;
- Allows use of Government of Japan funds for a \$114 million site improvement project at North Ramp of Andersen AFB as well as unlimited use for planning and design of future projects;
- Authorizes \$176 million for selective hardening of facilities at Andersen Air Force Base to support the Pacific Airpower Resiliency program;

- Additionally, authorizes \$128 million for a fully hardened Fuel Systems Hangar at Andersen Air Force Base that was cut in the previous year's defense bill. This provision was supported by Chairmen Forbes and Wittman to ensure the Pacific Resiliency program finds the right balance between hardening and dispersal at Andersen AFB. This project was previously partially funded in the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bill;

- Requires the Department of Defense to convene an Economic Adjustment Committee meeting within 90 days after passage of the bill to better validate Guam's civilian infrastructure funding and produce a final report on civilian infrastructure funding at the time the Record of Decision is signed on the realignment of Marines to Guam;
- Reauthorizes the Sikes Act through 2019;

- Permits a recipient of funds under the Sikes Act to be able to use the funds as matching funds or cost-sharing requirements of other conservation programs. This section allows local governments who are short on funding to use federal funds as matching for the purposes of meeting conservation goals which helps to enhance the readiness of military forces;
- Requires a report on ship

repair capabilities in Guam—including skilled personnel, equipment, and facilities—in support of Department of the Navy capabilities needed to sustain United States naval forces readiness in the Guam region;

- Authorizes the National Guard State Partnership Program and requires the Department of Defense to promulgate regulations on the program with certain parameters and requires certain reporting requirements to track progress of the program;

- Provides an additional \$1.1 million to the Navy O&M accounts to fully fund the requirements of the Navy Sea Cadet Corps program. The Navy Sea Cadet Corps is a critical program that assists the Navy in meeting recruiting goals;

- Supports current law that provides servicemembers with a 1-percent increase in pay;

- Encompasses a number of initiatives designed to confront sexual assault in the military. In particular, it removes the command prerogative and sole discretion of the court-

- marital convening authority with regard to the findings and sentence of a court-martial, and prohibits the convening authority from dismissing a finding, or from reducing a guilty finding to guilty of a lesser-included offense, except for minor offenses, and established mandatory minimum sentencing;

- Rejects all DoD proposals to increase TRICARE fee increases or establish new fees;

- Authorizes high schools in the Freely Associated States (FAS) to establish JROTC programs. The provision would provide students in the FAS with opportunities to train for military service;

- Supports U.S. Air Force and U.S. Strategic Command efforts to modernize the B-52 long range strike platform to meet current and future missions out of Andersen AFB and until the NextGen bomber program begins procurement; and

- Restricts the retirement of RQ-4 Global Hawk Block 30 aircraft until 2015. (PR)

EXTENSION

From Page 1

Chamber of Commerce concede there's still not enough U.S. worker pool to take over the jobs held by foreign workers by the end of 2014, and this could spell disaster to the economy, which has just been beginning to see growth.

Assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcina assisted Cepeda during the trial that began on Tuesday.

The jurors began deliberations on Thursday afternoon and continued on Friday morning.

On Tuesday, the victim, who

is now 20 years old, took the

witness stand and narrated to

the court the pain she suffered

when the defendant sexually

abused her thrice in 2009.

a maximum penalty of 30 years, while assault and battery carries the maximum of one year.

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Waste-to-energy investor seeks RFP release to move on

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Wisconsin-based investor that plans to build a \$40 million to \$50 million waste-to-energy project on Saipan to help prolong the Marpi landfill's lifespan met once more with lawmakers on Friday, asking whether the CNMI government would soon issue a request for proposals for renewable energy production.

The energy produced is expected to be lower than the 40 cents or so per kilowatt-hour that Commonwealth Utilities Corp. currently charges.

"It is not only so much about having lower power costs, but more importantly, about prolonging the lifespan of the landfill. The investors are asking the government to issue an RFP so that investors like them can start formally offering their proposals for renewable energy," Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tebuteb, the acting House speaker on Friday, said that instead of trash continuously piling up and being compacted at the landfill, they could be converted into energy. There could also be reduced costs for maintaining and operating the landfill.

Alliance Federated Energy is proposing gasification, the

process in which biomass such as waste from the Marpi landfill or trash from homes and businesses Tebuteb is converted into a fuel source.

Alliance Federated Energy president Ben VanKorn, their legal counsel, and Norman Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises, AFE's local business partner, met with House members on Friday. They also separately met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

"There's been so many investors visiting the CNMI, offering to develop renewable energy, but up to now, they can't formally offer their plan because there's no RFP yet," Tebuteb added.

This is the second time in nine months that VanKorn and Tenorio met with lawmakers about their proposals.

Under AFE's proposed project, the CNMI government will have to supply trash to Alliance Federated

Energy and then buy the "byproduct" energy from the firm at a cost much lower than the rate paid by regular power customers.

AFE is a developer of renewable energy and related infrastructure projects focused on environmentally sustainable technologies, with a specific focus on plasma gasification technology to generate electric and thermal energy and bio-fuels, its company profile says.

The CNMI government is trying to tap alternative or renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal power as well as waste-to-energy, liquefied natural gas, and safe nuclear energy.



Still Serving You!

Dr. David Khorram comes from Guam to Saipan every 2 weeks and continues to work with Dr. Robertson to provide excellent optical, medical, surgical, and laser eye care to the people of the CNMI.

- Listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists"
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- Published articles in international medical journals

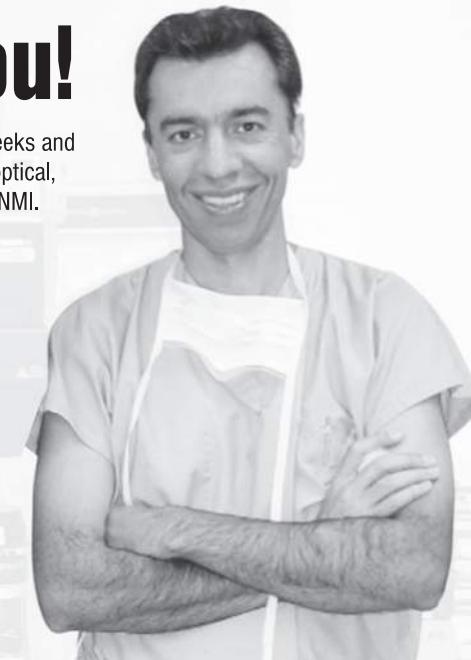
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payments of \$261.27 or \$120 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$15,676.20.

Tinian firm's bid for exclusive right to harbor face opposition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An application to allow a Tinian company to handle all seaport activities and operation on the island will most likely be rejected following strong opposition

voiced by different sectors.

Tinian Marine Stevedore Inc. is reportedly applying with the Commonwealth Ports Authority to gain exclusive rights to the entire seaport on Tinian for its business expansion. However, this early, the proposal is meet-

ing strong opposition from most of the CPA board and the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama disclosed during Friday's meeting that the delegation sent a letter urging the ports authority to reject the

proposed exclusive rights on the Tinian seaport property as this will bar new businesses from investing in the development of the seaport. The letter to CPA was reportedly sent by the delegation secretary Sen. Joaquin Borja, who stated that the issue

Fund lawyers' bill for July, August OK'd

The federal court has approved for payment \$116,298.76 in expenses and fees of the NMI Retirement Fund's former trustee *ad litem* and two Fund lawyers for July and August 2013.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday approved the request of former trustee *ad litem* Civille & Tang law firm for payment of

\$21,300 in professional fees and \$442.36 in expenses for July, and \$21,787.50 in professional fees and \$1,519.34 in expenses for August, for a total of \$45,049.20.

Tydingco-Gatewood also approved Fund counsel Daniel J. Berman's request for payment of \$30,312.50 in professional fees for July, and \$15,687.50 in professional fees and \$459.56 in

expenses for August, for a total of \$46,459.56.

For the Fund's other counsel, Braddock J. Huesman, the judge approved the lawyer's request for payment of \$14,320 in professional fees for July and \$10,470 in professional fees for August, for a total of \$24,290.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she finds the requests for compensation and reimbursements of ex-

penses to be reasonable.

The amounts, she said, shall be paid to the trustee *ad litem* and its attorneys from the money that was transferred from the Fund's operations budget to the trustee *ad litem*'s client trust account.

With the court's approval of the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action last Sept. 30, the judge discharged the Civille & Tang law firm and its representative, Joseph Razzano, as trustee *ad litem* for the Fund. (Ferdie de la Torre)

expenses for August, for a total of \$46,459.56.

For the Fund's other counsel, Braddock J. Huesman, the judge approved the lawyer's request for payment of \$14,320 in professional fees for July and \$10,470 in professional fees for August, for a total of \$24,290.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she finds the requests for compensation and reimbursements of ex-

will greatly impact the expansion and growth of the Tinian economy. The delegation also sought a meeting with the CPA board to further discuss the issue.

The board did not decide on the matter pending further clarifications.

Seaports facilities committee chair Benigno Sablan said that if exclusive rights are accorded to Tinian Stevedore Inc., this would affect the entry of not only small businesses but also a multimillion dollar project now being proposed in the vicinity of the Tinian seaport property.

He was referring to a project proposal from Bridge Investment Group LLC, which plans to build a 300-room hotel called the Titanic Hotel on Tinian's waterfront. The project was presented to the CPA board by Tinian Chamber of Commerce President Philip Mendiola Long in October.

Sablan said Mendiola-Long's group is ready to sign a lease agreement and pay the initial \$80,000 fee required to begin the process.

According to CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama, CPA is now working on a "conditional lease" permit for Bridge Capital. Once all requirements are satisfied, an actual lease

agreement will be issued.

She also pointed out that once exclusive right is granted to Tinian Marine Stevedore Inc., this may potentially result in higher costs for seaport activities, affecting small businesses. "They will face costs that we didn't have before," she said.

Michael San Nicolas, the board member representing Tinian, said he supports whatever decision is made on the Tinian port as long as it will help CPA generate income from its idle seaport properties on the island.

CPA board acting chair Thomas Kiyu Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that, once a conditional lease is issued, the board will make sure that there will be a timeframe as to when Bridge Capital is required to start the project. Failure to see a solid effort from the investor will mean canceling the lease agreement, he added.

As for Tinian Stevedore Inc.'s proposal to gain exclusive rights to the Tinian seaport property, he said: "It looks like they are interested in the whole property and operation of the harbor... and I don't think we can allow that. If it's only the pier side [for example], it's something that can be considered but not for the entire seaport area."

Guam sends \$10M in back pay to officers

HAGATNA, GUAM (AP)—Guam is sending \$10 million of back pay to police, corrections and other public safety officers who haven't been paid promised raises since 2009.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Wednesday that the lump sum payments to about 1,000 officers will cover about half of the back pay owed.

Administration officials for Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo say the territory has been saving money to make the payment. The back pay has been Guam's largest liability to government workers.

"This will be another obligation wiped off our books," Calvo said. He said other pay increases will be paid beginning next year.

Joshua Tenorio, spokesman for the Guam Judiciary, said marshals and probation officers got checks in November for back pay owed through September 2012. The back pay from 2013 is about \$1.2 million, he said.

Tenorio said there is a disparity between officers in the executive and judicial branches, with judicial officers not seeing an increase in regular paychecks.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Clarence R. Tenorio, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 16, 2013. We love and miss you so much from across the miles. Greetings come from Mom and Champ in Las Vegas and from the rest of the family.



Birthday greetings going out to Hank Jr. P. Arurang, who is celebrating his birthday today! May the Lord bless you and shower you with lots of love. Greetings coming from your Dad, Mom, two brothers (Conseco John and Chicko) and your familia.

Happy 44th birthday to Daddy Juan Mang! We love you! Greetings come from John Luis and Johnovan Quitugua Camacho.

FSM president's chief of staff returns to childhood home

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For Leo Falcam Jr. a chance meeting with old friend David Sablan at the recently held Micronesian Chief Executive Summit brought back a lot of memories growing up on Saipan in the early 1960s.

The chief of staff of FSM President Emanuel Mori also happens to be the eldest son of Leo Falcam, the fifth president of the Federated States of Micronesia and former executive officer for the U.S. Trust Territory.

Saipan served as the capital of the U.S. Trust Territory and as the No. 3 guy after the high commissioner and deputy commissioner, the elder Falcam and his then young family made the islands their home.

"I attended second grade at Mt. Carmel School and eventually after a couple of years I moved up to Garapan Elementary School where I finished sixth grade. I lived five or six years on Saipan," said the younger Falcam, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel.

Sablan said he and Falcam's dad first met when he got involved in the Pohnpeian Agriculture and Trade School.

He said he couldn't forget the time when he asked for the elder Falcam's help to repair a boat during a trip to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands many years ago.

"They said it was just sitting there because nobody knew how to repair it. I thought if anybody can fix it, it's Larry Guerrero. The future governor of the CNMI is an electrical engineer. I called Leo [Falcam Sr.] and asked him to buy a ticket for Guerrero so he could come down. Guerrero and Felix Fitial finally flew to Kwajalein and it took them only two hours to repair the ship. People were so happy that they had a party until midnight," recalled Sablan.

Falcam said his dad, now 78 years old, is loving retirement and is making himself busy by being a doting grandfather to his grandchildren.

During lulls in the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit, Falcam got a chance to visit his old digs and noted the many changes that have taken place.

"The past couple of days during this official visit I had the opportunity to drive around and it's been very nostalgic. I drove up to Capital Hill and scoped out the old houses we used to live in. I also went to the old Congress [of Micronesia] building going up to Mt. Tapochao. I drove along Middle Road, which is now called Pale Arnold. There was very little on Middle Road back then. It was dead. There was the old train at Sugar King Park. The train sitting there was very prominent. You would see it on the road as you drive. I tried to look for

it the other day and I almost missed it."

Falcam said he also tried but failed to find Hamilton's, which along with Saipan's many picturesque beaches, was the place to socialize and mingle with the island crowd.

"Barbecues on the beach were a regular thing. All of these folks who eventually became shapers of who we are in this region now were there. We were all friends and it was exciting to watch their passion for the things they were involved in."

Hands down, the biggest changes he observed during his visit is the population's diversity, while infrastructure growth comes a close second.

"When we were here it was predominantly folks from throughout the Micronesian region, Americans, some Japanese. But as I come back over the years, you recognize how much diverse the population is getting. There's been a huge influx from the Pacific region not only from Micronesia and not just the South Pacific but to include places as far flung as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India."

He said this only means that Saipan—and in general the CNMI—offers opportunity to a lot of people.

"There are folks around the world seeking some level of opportunities and they're finding it here. That stood out first. The other thing that stood out was the growth in infrastructure. More roads, many more hotels, more buildings..."

Falcam said the FSM has grown at a more moderate pace compared to the CNMI.

"The islands have progressed, albeit slowly, very slowly. There are some very promising signals of continued growth but there is also a lot of work to do. You have to consider all the different elements of a nation. The FSM is a federation and the CNMI is a commonwealth. The relationship that we have toward our important partner, the U.S., is a little bit different and the structures of government are a little bit different in the FSM compared to the CNMI."

Falcam said that's where the goals and ideals of the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit come into play.

"The summit we just concluded is one of the many examples of a concerted effort on the part of leadership to collaborate more closely on challenges affecting this sector of the Pacific region, which are the Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, CNMI, Guam, and FSM. The outlook is promising but the laundry list of things to do is quite extensive."

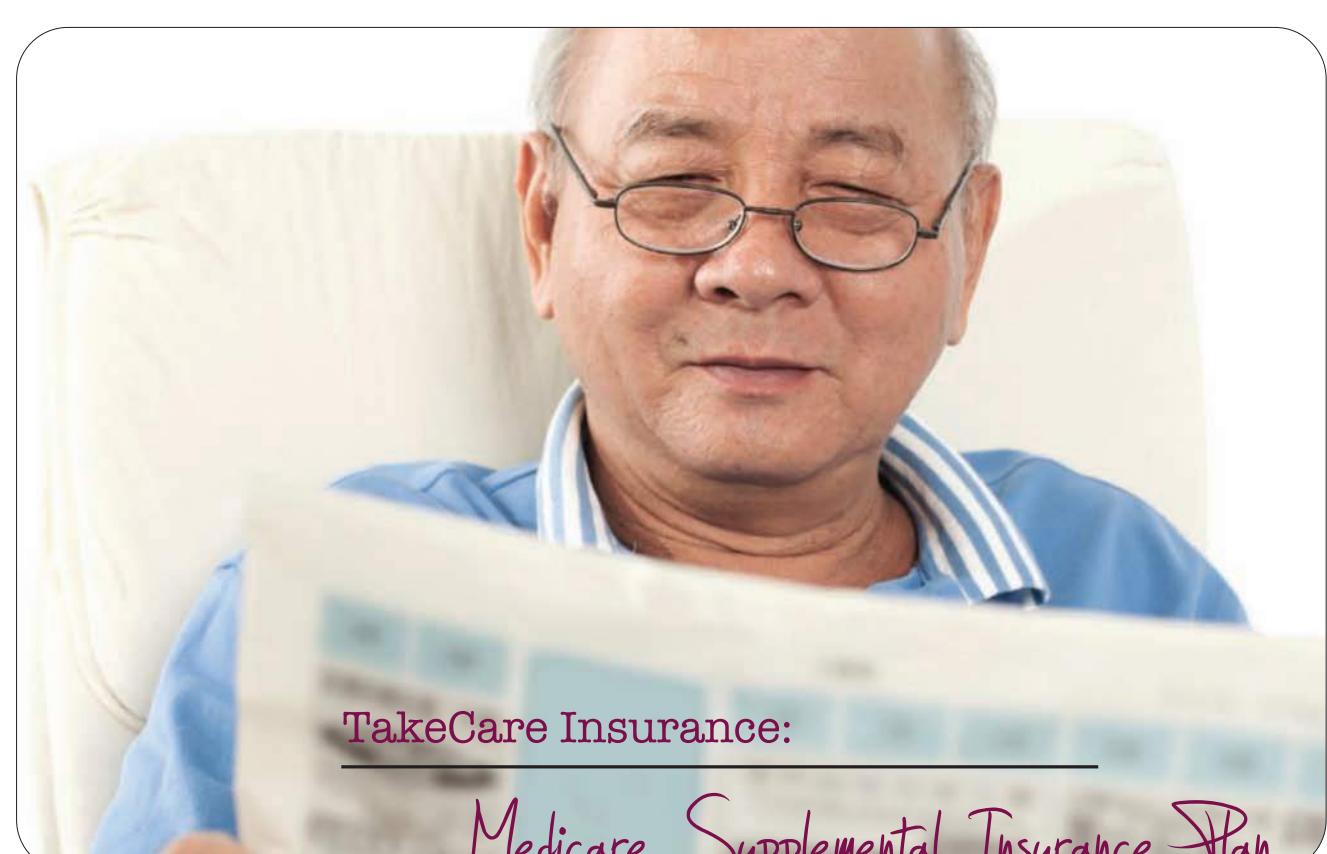
After years serving the U.S. military, Falcam agrees that his life has come full circle and it took a trip to his childhood home of Saipan to make him realize it.



MARK RABAGO

Leo Falcam Jr., Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori's chief of staff, checks out an ESGR cap given to him by Dave Sablan at the CIC office in Garapan Tuesday.

"I think I have come full circle but quite unexpectedly. The Marine Corps treated me well. I came back home to Pohnpei after 31 years because I thought I've been gone for so long I need to get a little bit more reacquainted with my roots. My father is also getting along in years so I have some family incentive to come home. I came back to the FSM to retire to see what I might be able to contribute. Then I stumbled into this great opportunity and I'm thankful for President Mori for allowing me to serve as his chief of staff. The job is not boring, I can tell you that, and I'm learning a lot. It's a perfect place to be to get reacquainted with how things operate throughout the FSM."



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Marina transfer hampered by \$8M owed MRC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will have to cool its heels before it can operate the Outer Cove Marina following disclosure that the Executive Branch has put off transferring the property to CPA as the CNMI government still owes the marina's operator some \$8 million as part of a settlement deal.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama, who followed up on CPA's request for the transfer of the property to its fold, reported Friday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos has deferred his decision on the matter because of the government's unpaid obligation to the late businessman Tony Pellegrino,

the operator of the marina.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lizama met with Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios on Dec. 6 to discuss the CPA's issues with the marina.

She disclosed that Palacios told her that the governor has set aside the transfer of the Outer Cove Marina due to issues plaguing the marina that remain unresolved.

"One example [of these issues] is the \$8 million Pellegrino no settlement," Lizama said.

It was Pellegrino's company Marine Revitalization Corp. that built the Outer Cove Marina for \$3.5 million in 1995. Under his agreement with the government, the NMI government was supposed to pay MRC

\$800,000 and allow the company to recoup its construction cost from those using the slipping docks until the lease agreement expired on Aug. 21, 2010. Pellegrino later sued the government for breaching the agreement. He won the case and the CNMI government was directed to pay Pellegrino for his losses. The government's debt to MRC was last estimated at \$8.5 million, including interest. Pellegrino recently passed away after waiting for the government's payment for many years.

Saipan Tribune learned that the DLNR currently has responsibility over the marina after the approval of the submerged land lease agreement between the MRC and the

CNMI government.

Because the operation involves seaport activities, CPA earlier asked the governor and DLNR to transfer the operation to CPA.

However, the claim to take over the operation of the marina became because of the involved court litigations and mediations on the issue. It was disclosed that once CPA is given the authority over the marina, it will be obligated to pay the money owed MRC.

CPA is in the process of getting the grant of public domain not only for the Outer Cove Marina but also for the "vast land" between the Army Reserve facility and the marina so it could develop the property and earn revenue from it.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 16, 2005

New casino on Tinian proposed

A group of investors headed by U.S. presidential appointee to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Commission Rudy Pamintuan is seeking a permit from the CNMI government to set up a new casino on Tinian. The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission confirmed yesterday that Pamintuan's team is applying for a casino license and is in fact holding a public presentation about the project on Monday at 5pm. "They will present their proposal on Monday. The public is invited to attend," said TCGCC executive director Esther Hofsneider-Barr in an interview yesterday. She said the public hearing will be held at Tinian Superior Court House.

HANMI braces for decline in Japanese tourists

The CNMI would be losing over a hundred thousand Japanese visitors following the pullout of Japan Airlines' regular flights to Saipan, which would result in an economic loss of as much as \$37 million and more job losses in 2006. Under this projection by the Strategic Economic Development Council, the 29-percent decline would mean a loss of some 109,116 Japanese tourists for the CNMI to equal Fiscal Year 2005's Japanese arrivals of 376,263. The SEDC finding, through a study conducted by consulting firm Economists.com, caught the attention of Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands members, who met with newly elected lawmakers at the Hafa Adai Hotel Wednesday to hear presentations about the state of the CNMI's tourism industry.

December 16, 2006

'Help displaced local workers too'

Senate President Joseph M. Mendiola reminded the Department of Labor yesterday not to neglect resident workers amid efforts to assist the contract employees displaced by recent business closures. Mendiola said that residents deserve the same benefits and assistance as their foreign counterparts. "With so much attention being devoted to the concerns of contract workers, how are resident workers' concerns being addressed and what remedies are in place for our local residents who have lost their jobs due to the closures?" he asked in a letter to Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas.

Research belies 'imminent collapse' of ocean ecosystems

Research conducted by an international team of scientists refutes claims that ocean ecosystems are on the brink of collapse. Although the new research finds significant decreases in abundance of some large pelagic (oceanic) fish stocks resulting from increased fishing, the picture is not nearly as gloomy as has been previously reported, according to the report published this week in *Science*. The paper, entitled *Biomass, size and trophic status of top-level predators in the Pacific Ocean*, is co-authored by Dr John Hampton, Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Oceanic Fisheries program manager, and three other fisheries scientists: John Sibert of the University of Hawaii, Pierre Kleiber of NOAA Fisheries in Honolulu, and Mark Maunder of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

December 16, 2007

DPW building deemed unsafe

The Department of Public Works is looking to relocate about 20 of its employees from Lower Base due to the deteriorating state of the building they currently occupy. Secretary of Public Works Jose S. Demapan said the department has already written to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Rebecca Warfield to ask if DPW could use the Black Micro facility in Marpi. "We have not received a response from DPS as yet," according to Demapan.

3rd phase of Sugar King project begins

The third phase of the Sugar King Estate revitalization project broke ground Friday morning, signaling the start of construction work on a new food courtyard. Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela led other officials in the groundbreaking ceremony. Tudela said the new facility would accommodate up to eight concessionaires and serve up to a hundred guests at a time. "My office will be issuing notice of interest for competitive participation of local vendors to serve a variety of local delicacies, beverages, local crafts, souvenir gift shop, sugar cane candy factory and Internet and coffee boutique," Tudela said.

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'If govt pays its CUC bills, power charges would go down \$5.5M'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

If the CNMI government were to pay its utility bills on time, other customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wouldn't have to pay so much for power and CUC would have more funds to pay for equipment, inventory, and maintenance, according to the utility agency.

In papers it filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities

Commission last Friday, CUC disclosed that CNMI government agencies currently owe the utilities corporation about \$20 million—representing 20 percent of CUC's annual revenue and 100 percent of its electric base rate revenue.

If the central government and its instrumentalities pay this amount and all its future bills on time, this would lower LEAC charges for all customers by about \$5.5 million and increase the amount of cash available to

by \$2.3 million, CUC said.

The CUC documents show that CUC's government accounts receivables increased dramatically from June 30, 2011 to Nov. 27, 2013. According to CUC records, government receivables increased from \$5.2 million in June 2011 to \$19.2 million in November 2013—an increase of 179 percent.

Of particular note is \$11.6 million that has been outstand-

ing for more than 90 days—a 604 percent increase in government accounts receivable outstanding for more than 90 days.

The electric system receivables, it was also learned, have increased from \$3.8 million in June 2011 to \$10.7 million in November 2013—an increase of 179 percent.

CUC revealed that \$7.3 million of the electric receivables from the government are over 90 days and this reflects an increase of 462 percent from June 2011.

CUC policy mandates that it has to collect payment from customers within 45 days of issuing the bill. Customers failing to do so would be disconnected.

"The impact of the government bringing its receivables to the levels required by CUC's rules and regulations would reduce LEAC charges for all customers by approximately \$5.5 million, and increase cash available to pay for equipment, inventory and maintenance by \$2.3 million," stated CUC.

While the government has run up an \$8.9 million electric bill payable over 45 days, it expects residential and commercial ratepayers to pay government-created obligations through increased rates in the following: \$1.2 million for

dividend payments on preferred stock with CDA; \$1.33 million funded by commercial ratepayers as a result of Public Law 16-7; and an additional \$130,000 in lube oil annually.

According to CUC, fuel expenses account for about 75 percent of bills. The result of reducing LEAC revenues for government bills unpaid after 75 days is that those amounts are charged to all other customers. Currently, it said, that amount is approximately \$5.5 million.

Also, the electric non-fuel portion over 45 days is approximately \$2.3 million, which is the cash that CUC has not received and which it can use for many purposes such as for equipment, inventory, and deferred maintenance.



ON FARALLON DE MEDINILLA

Marines and sailors conduct close-air support on Farallon de Medinilla, Northern Mariana Islands during Exercise Forager Fury II. The exercise allows Marine Aircraft Group 12 to improve aviation combat readiness and will simulate operations in a deployed, expeditionary environment. The service members are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, both currently assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Sandy Hook's victims: Did we let them down?

The killing last December of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., was expected to finally change this country's apathy toward gun control. It seemed impossible, after so many 6- and 7-year-olds cowering in their classrooms were methodically shot and killed by a young man armed with a military-style semiautomatic weapon, that the nation's leaders would not begin to limit access to tools of mass murder.

But it didn't happen. A year later, on the first anniversary of the Newtown massacre, reasonable gun control legislation has been blocked in Congress and it's still far too easy to acquire a weapon that can kill a dozen people in seconds.

What happened to the urgency? The obligation to prevent another atrocity? Apparently, the moral imperative is fleeting, while subservience to the National Rifle Assn. endures.

In the weeks after Newtown, President Barack Obama proposed a series of changes to reduce gun violence, including banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, stricter gun trafficking laws and improving mental health services. But even though a majority of Americans said they backed a harder line on gun control, the president and Sandy Hook parents-turned-activists were stymied in Congress.

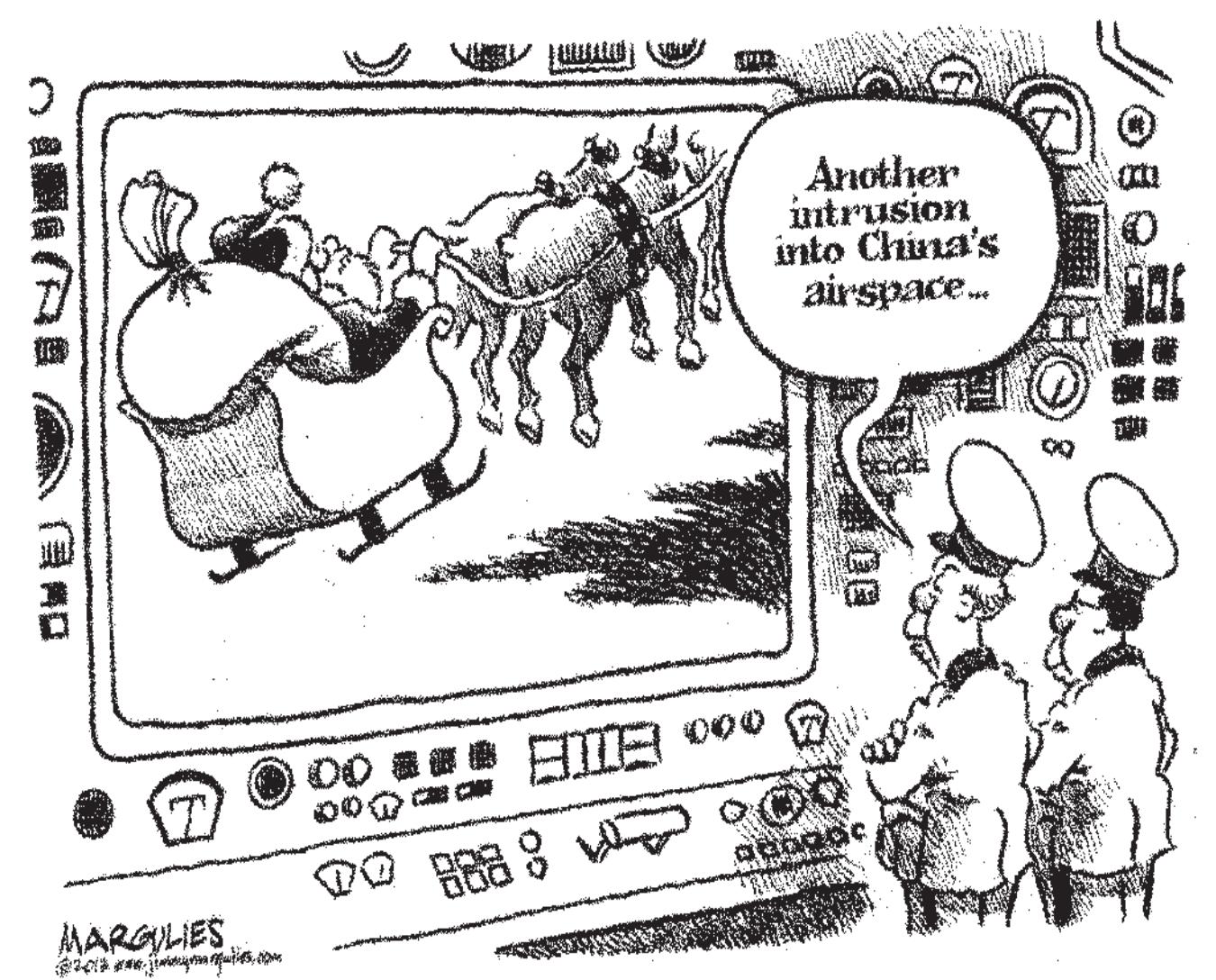
First to go were important but more controversial bills like California Sen. Dianne Feinstein's improved version of her earlier assault weapon ban, which had expired in 2004. Democratic leaders gave up the fight for the new ban to focus on measures with more bipartisan support, such as expanding the criminal background check system and cracking down on straw purchasers who buy guns on behalf of criminals. But even those proposals were rejected under powerful pressure from the NRA.

While Congress failed to act, several states did pass meaningful gun control legislation, including New York, Connecticut and Colorado. There's been pushback, including the recall of two Colorado state legislators who helped pass universal background checks on gun purchases and new limits on ammunition magazines. And the broader trend at the state level is to loosen gun laws, not tighten them. A recent New York Times analysis found that state legislatures passed 109 laws on guns after the Newtown massacre. Two-thirds of them eased gun restrictions.

And what became of Obama's call to make access to mental health care "as easy as access to a gun"? Again, Congress punted. Some 36 states increased funding for mental health services and a dozen states passed laws enabling more people to receive court-ordered treatment for severe mental illness.

There may still be hope. Newtown gave rise to a new political consciousness among parents, moderate voters and Americans who didn't previously feel passionate about the issue of gun control. While the sense of urgency that followed the massacre may be receding, the fight for rational gun laws must go on. The safety of children must prevail over the power of the gun lobby.

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Mature wine uncorked: a retirement monologue

It was midweek in our pentateuchal reflection on Madiba's eventful completion of a vivaciously celebrated life, and while writing of what I thought it must be to embody in one's being the challenge of the times to effect radical change on the question of what it means to be human, the law office of Shenyang Aerospace University's International Education College dropped a bomb we had anticipated but did not think was going to come so soon and so suddenly. I am now in the middle of a very radical and rapid change.

One of the teachers from New York who spent half of his adult life in Hawaii is fond of saying, "As long as Jaime is here, I am safe." Liaoning province in China, who owns and runs our university, has an existing rule in the books not to employ any foreigner over 65. They had been ignoring that for the last three years in our case but this year, as the reform ethos around the whole country gets pushed, public entities are urged to operate strictly by the book. My colleague is a year my junior; I chimed 68 last August.

I am, ironically, a casualty of a policy that I support. Implementing existing rules, published or unfamiliar, is not one of China's forte, and it would be nice for that to change. There are many good rules and statutes in the books that we wish were implemented even if it is just the highly publicized ones like the one that forbids honking of motor vehicle horns in campus, or minding once vehicular speed when driving around school roadways.

In a country where the retirement age of 55 for women and 60 for men qualifies for superannuation, it finds the age of 65 a rather mature one. The rule not to hire above 65 has even got tighter. It is now down to 60, the same as the locals. The rule is there to enable elders to spend more time with grandchildren and voluntary interests.

"We took your case all the way up to the Provincial Committee, with even the college dean making an appearance and impassioned appeal on your behalf," the attorney ruefully intoned, "to no favorable consequence, for the Foreign Affairs is adamant that a rule is a rule, and unless it is amended or changed, it must be applied universally across the board."

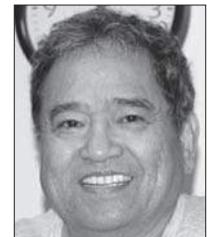
This came about while the school was applying for my working visa, after the school and I already signed next year's contract, after the faculty liaison officer already bought and let me utilize a roundtrip air ticket I normally use during the spring break at the end of my contract year but I used to visit my mother in the hospital in October, and after the financial officer already designated and set aside my salary for the next contract year.

Also, I do not feel, think, or act retired, and given the illusory youth of my Asian physique, I do not even look retire-able. But formally retiring is what I ended up doing, not only to save "face" from the appearance of being refused employment but also to keep

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



the school from looking like they ignored a rule and is now compelled to enforce it!

It is the season when the authentically possible is incarnate and birthed (my Christmas story), so the question I need to answer is, what does the situation require, and do I have a role still to play in it? By the attorney's account, the school officials who went up to bat for me did so on the gathered information that students were pleased with our classroom management and are learning from our pedagogy. Unfortunately, that does not count when faced with the power of bureaucratic resolve. Individual cases do not merit exceptions to a rule, a principle I do not normally disagree with, but have been known to ignore in practice.

Now, is this worth writing about, and is the faithful readers' patience worth taxing? Probably not. For what we write out loud would be relevant were my issue with retirement be like those of my fellow elders in the Commonwealth who had recently been impinged upon on their bank balances by less than 25 percent of normal. Ours is simply recognizing that, perhaps, it is time to cease wading our brittle bones through the winter snow to get to a classroom.

The SVES principal at the time I left PSS to deal with my cervical pain suggested that I consider medical retirement. I looked into it (thanks Kinai). The CNMI was already in default in its share to my retirement credit so I took my contributions to pay for medical attention, and also let PSS call my withdrawal from service. I did apply to return but a colleague at HR was candid enough to blurt out: "Jaime, in our tight situation, we can hire two and a half entry levels for what we have to pay you."

Right now, I hang on to my father's words. "Retirement," he once wisely said, "is simply replacing the old tires with new ones." So we are technically retiring from the employed rolls of teachers at the university, but we are gearing up with new tires ready to bolt into the productive frame!

Given the state of our health (still good!), we will endeavor to face the question: What is required in the world of effective pedagogy, and do I still have anything to contribute into it? When I have an answer, I will let you know.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ignoring ‘We the people’

Casino gambling is the Holy Grail for inept minds convinced it's the single cure-all to the significant decline in revenues here. Not only is it riddled with pipe-dream answers but proponents completely ignored and trashed public sentiment against it after two plebiscites when voters simply said "no."

Is casino industry the realistic substitute or is this proposal another ill-conceived two-headed corn snake, scattershot at best and riddled with more queries than answers? Though redundant, perhaps there's a need to reiterate voters decision on this issue so proponents understand their hollow and shallow proposal. They are:

1). The people have voted *twice* to effectively kill the measure in a plebiscite. It should dawn on legislators that "we the people" took it away from you for a reason: We no longer trust placing it at your feet. "We the people" soundly rebuked your incompetence via a plebiscite. Obviously, you failed to hear that we no longer trust your judgment on this matter. How could you've glossed over the voice of "we the people" who said "no" twice? Such suspect courage is at its most delusional level.

2). You only saw the "glitz and glamour" of casino, completely ignoring the flip side to it. It deals with the Trojan horse of socio-economic ills and disruption that would slowly chisel its way into the lives of the indigenous people who'd fall victims to human frailties. It includes battle with drugs, prostitution, loss of family house and land, health, murder, loss of family values, among others. Did you thoroughly give these issues critical review or did you simply look the other way?

3). The clear voice of "we the people" is ignored altogether as though it's just another fly by cotton ball you dust off your shirt and

tie. Why would you work against the clear will of "we the people?" Is there anything you know about casino that we're ignorant about? Don't you think we've delved into both sides of the issue before concluding that it's not a sustainable industry? Do we have the basic infrastructure (wealthy people) to support the industry? What percentage of the local population are millionaires? Isn't it true that the CNMI has become SNAP Isles?

4). Japan is on its way to approving casino as part of its thriving tourism industry. It's equipped with 26 million multimillionaires (known as infrastructure) most capable of supporting the industry when it is established. The combined heavy competition from Macau and Japan would simply pummel our pull-out-of-the-hat casino industry Marianas-wide. The two countries are very wealthy and could afford big time casinos, unlike the CNMI inching its way in the dark alleys of bankruptcy. Macau is even moving toward catering to the ultra-wealthy with lavish gifts and services unheard of the world over.

5). It would be interesting to see the House committee report citing the economic model used to justify projected revenue generation. What are the credentials of the experts who provided the research work and was it sufficiently extensive covering all aspects "we the people" need to know? What's the source and derivative of the projected revenue and is it a realistic calculation? Or was it haphazardly prepared and designed to blur the real issues on social ills?

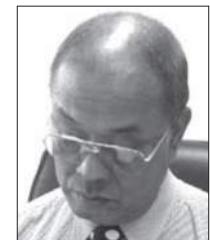
6). Who's going to move in and dump \$40 million in a venue that has recently been christened America's newest "Welfare State?" Against empirical data, is it still your infinite wisdom that casino is a sustainable industry here? Has it worked on Tinian and Rota?

What about the harmonious perpetuation of our peoplehood

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



via institutions like the church, culture, tradition, education, respect, integrity, marriage, and our freedom of choice? Why are you so disconnected from these time-honored institutions? Appalling the NMD-only mindset (ethnic hegemony) while allowing for more dilution? Must define what it is that you want and quit shooting from the hip!

There are legislators who've taken the convenient exit, turning their inadequacies to opponents insisting for answers. Humiliating your turning political dinosaurs and you've never even sought for a socio-economic plan—a blueprint—to move the needle of growth forward? Missed it, huh?

Evidently, I served as commissioner of the Gambling Commission in 1979. My lifetime experience on this issue grants me the opportunity to view it with meaning and context focused on preventing the repeat of history. Keep criminal elements from corrupting public officials permanently. It's ugly!

Time Person of the Year

Time Magazine picks Catholic pontiff Pope Francis as its Person of the Year, beating President Obama, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and other top honorees.

"Rarely has a new player on the world stage captured so much attention so quickly," said *Time* managing editor Nancy Gibbs Wednesday. "In his nine months in office, he has placed himself at the very center of the central conversations of our time: about wealth and poverty, fairness and justice, transparency, modernity, globalization, the role of women, the nature of marriage, the temptations of power."

Gibbs pointed out that the 76-year-old Pope has "no army or weapons, no kingdom beyond a tight fist of land in the middle of Rome, but with the immense wealth and weight of history behind, to throw down a challenge." The Pope's message is also spreading to people beyond the church, said Gibbs.

"When he kisses the face of a disfigured man or washes the feet of a Muslim woman, the image resonates far beyond the boundaries of the Catholic Church," Gibbs wrote in a piece explaining the magazine's selection.

Role of education

The most successful economies of scale share something in common: each has a globally renowned university at the center, guiding growth and development of the entire country.

The University of Hawaii has done exceedingly well partaking in the overall growth and development of the Aloha State. The University of Guam has become the center of higher learning for the entire Micronesian region and continues to expand. NMC?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ill-prepared for college

I read the Dec. 12 article about NMC director of Institutional Effectiveness Jackie Che's report to the Board of Regents with concern. The implication was that NMC was somehow deficient in serving students in developmental classes. She needed to place that in a broader context. As a former Adult Basic Education and developmental English instructor, I know that NMC has substantial programs in place to assist students who place below the standard college freshman level. Based on my personal knowledge at NMC, and that of my late mother at American Samoa Community College, I ask Ms. Che one question: How many of the unsuccessful students in developmental classes were high school graduates? The college cannot make up for years of poor performance in a semester or two and that fact should be made clear.

Philip Swett
Newport, OR

Who are ‘we the people’?

On my 16th birthday in 1950, I went to work for the daily newspaper in the small East Texas town where I grew up. It was a racially divided town—about 20,000 people, half of them white, half of them black—a place where you could grow up well loved, well taught and well churched, and still be unaware of the lives of others merely blocks away. It was nonetheless a good place to be a cub reporter: small enough to navigate but big enough to keep me busy and learning something new every day.

I soon had a stroke of luck. Some of the old-timers in the newsroom were on vacation or out sick, and I got assigned to report on what came to be known as the "Housewives' Rebellion." Fifteen women in town (all white) decided not to pay the Social Security withholding tax for their domestic workers (all black).

They argued that Social Security was unconstitutional, that imposing it was taxation without representation and that—here's my favorite part—"requiring us to collect (the tax) is no different from requiring us to collect the garbage." They hired a lawyer, went to court—and lost. Social Security was constitutional after all. They held their noses and paid the tax.

The stories I helped report were picked up by The Associated Press and circulated nationwide. One day, the managing editor, Spencer Jones, called me over and pointed to the AP ticker beside his desk. Moving across the wire was a notice citing the reporters on our paper for the reporting we had done on the "rebellion." I was hooked. In one way or another, after a detour through seminary and then into politics and government, I've been covering the class war ever since.

Those women in Marshall were among its advance guard. Not bad people—they were regulars at church, their children were my classmates, many of them were active in community affairs, and their husbands were pillars of the business and professional class in town. They were respectable and upstanding citizens all, so it took me a while to figure out what had brought on that spasm of reactionary defiance. It came to me one day, much later: They simply couldn't see beyond their own prerogatives.

Fiercely loyal to their families, to their clubs, charities and congregations—fiercely loyal, in other words, to their own kind—they narrowly defined membership in democracy to include only people like themselves. The black women who washed and ironed their laundry, cooked their families' meals, cleaned their bathrooms, wiped their children's bottoms and made their husbands' beds—these women too would grow old and frail, sick and decrepit, lose their husbands and face the ravages of time alone, with nothing to show for their years of labor but the creases on their brows and the knots on their knuckles. Without the

By BILL MOYERS

Los Angeles Times



Bill Moyers is host of the weekly public television series Moyers & Company. This piece is adapted from a speech he gave at the Brennan Center for Justice. A longer version appears at tomdispatch.com. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

safety net made possible by Social Security, they would be on their own. Their employers—the women they worked for—saw none of this as their concern.

In one way or another, this is the oldest story in America: the struggle to determine whether "we, the people" is a moral compact embedded in a political contract or merely a charade masquerading as piety and manipulated by the powerful and privileged to sustain their way of life at the expense of others.

I should make it clear that I don't harbor any idealized notion of politics and democracy. Nor do I romanticize "the people." You should read my mail and posts on right-wing websites. I understand the politician in Texas who said of the state Legislature, "If you think these guys are bad, you should see their constituents."

But there is nothing idealized or romantic about the difference between a society whose arrangements roughly serve all its citizens (something otherwise known as social justice) and one whose institutions have been converted into a stupendous fraud. That difference can be the difference between democracy and plutocracy.

Toward the end of Justice William J. Brennan's tenure on the Supreme Court, he made a speech that went to the heart of the matter. He said:

"We do not yet have justice, equal and practical, for the poor, for the members of minority groups, for the criminally accused, for the displaced persons of the technological revolution, for alienated youth, for the urban masses. . . . Ugly inequities continue to mar the face of the nation. We are surely nearer the beginning than the end of the struggle."

And so we are. One hundred and fifty years ago, Abraham Lincoln stood on the blood-soaked battlefield of Gettysburg and called Americans to "the great task remaining." That "unfinished work," as he named it, remained the same then as it was when America's founding generation began it. And it remains the same today: to breathe new life into the promise of the Declaration of Independence and to assure that the Union so many have sacrificed to save is a union worth saving.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▾76°

▲86° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▾79
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▾77
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▾77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▾80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▾78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▾78
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▾79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▾61
Beijing	Sunny	▲42 ▾19
Hong Kong	Showers	▲59 ▾54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▾68
London	Showers	▲55 ▾43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77 ▾49
Manila	Cloudy	▲85 ▾77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▾51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82 ▾68
New York	Ice	▲37 ▾17
Osaka	Cloudy	▲50 ▾41
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▾43
Pusan	Cloudy	▲49 ▾39
Rome	Sunny	▲57 ▾42
Salem	Cloudy	▲45 ▾33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61 ▾45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲35 ▾27
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▾38
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▾27

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:36 AM	5:49 PM	Today	5:00 PM	5:20 AM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM	Tuesday	5:49 PM	6:09 AM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM	Wednesday	6:38 PM	6:57 AM
Thursday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM	Thursday	7:27 PM	7:44 AM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM	Friday	8:15 PM	8:27 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
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SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)		
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am
UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm
UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm
UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)		
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)		
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)		
DL287	6:05am	11:25pm

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN		
DL298	4:35am	3:00pm

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		
DL287	6:05am	8:40am
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am
D2102	2:20am	5:50am
OZ606</		

2 Guam National Guard soldiers start flight school

Two of the Guam Army National Guard's newest Warrant Officers, who recently completed Warrant Officer Candidate School, will be the first two soldiers to attend flight school for the Guam Army National Guard.

Warrant Officer 1 Brian F. Enderes, from Yigo, and Warrant Officer 1 Sarah M. Uchida both completed Warrant Officer Candidate School at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, earlier this month.

Taxpayers urged to avail of amnesty program

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance announced Friday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law a new Amnesty Program pursuant to Public Law 18-29. The program will expire on Jan. 2, 2014.

Under the amnesty program, taxpayers may request for the

The fledgling Guam Army National Guard Aviation continues to build its force and infrastructure in support of Detachment 2, Delta Company, 1-224th Medical Evacuation, according to GUARNG Aviation and Safety Officer LTC Bill Breeze.

The unit is slated to receive two Army LUH-72A (Lakota) helicopters.

Next year, other soldiers, both enlisted and officers, will also begin training in their aviation

military occupation skill set to be fully prepared to receive the aircraft in 2015, Breeze added.

Upon receiving the two MedEvac aircraft, the unit will go through an extensive six- to nine-month certification process to be fully mission-capable in order to support the island and the nation's needs.

Enderes is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and obtained his associate degree in Automotive Technology from

venue and Taxation beginning Dec. 14, 2014.

To learn more about the amnesty program, contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1098 or visit the Dandan Office. Additional information will be available at the Department of Finance website at www.cnmidof.net. (*Office of the Governor*)

Guam Community College. He joined the Guam Army National Guard as a member of the 721st Army Band in 2008 as a private.

Enderes started his Warrant Officer Basic Course and Flight School 21 at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Ft. Rucker



Uchida

this week. He will be the first Aviation Warrant Officer to attend Flight School for the Guam Army National Guard. He is married to Jinky Enderes, and is the son of Manuel and Nerita

Enderes from Yigo.

Uchida, from Agana Heights, will be starting her flight school next week. She is a graduate of Moana Loa High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada.

Uchida joined the Guam Army National Guard as a member of Forward Support Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion in 2011 as a private.

Uchida will be the first fe-

male Aviation Warrant Officer to attend Flight School for the Guam Army National Guard. She is the daughter of Dan and Kathy Uchida, who reside in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Uchida is originally from Hawaii and besides her parents, she would like to thank the special people who have helped her to get where she is at and keep her motivated through her journey: from Hawaii are her parents, Dan and Kathy Uchida; the late Gary and Edna Uchida; the late Robert and Elsie Chang. Her Guam family includes Linda Yeomans; Edward Sr., Emmy, Edward Jr. and Edwin Babauta and Mark and Joaline Smith. (PR)



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† The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.24% as of 10/23/13. The intro fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within the 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than \$1.00. The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5% of the U.S. dollar amount of any Purchase or Cash Advance made in a foreign currency. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount (\$3 min) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance, Balance Transfer and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount (\$5 min). \$0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is \$60. Additional limitation, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.

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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

Navy group, Palau forces link up for communications training



TIMOTHY WILSON

Information Technology Specialist 1st Class Timothy Lout, center, attached to Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 on Guam, demonstrates satellite communications to members of Palauan security forces in Koror on Dec. 9.

By TIMOTHY WILSON
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KOROR, Palau—Two sailors from Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 concluded a communications familiarization seminar with Palauan security forces in Koror on Dec. 11.

The sailors, home-based in Guam, travelled to Palau aboard the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo last week as part of a Theater Security Cooperation mission coordinated and facilitated by the U.S. Defense Rep-

resentative Political-Military Affairs office.

"The Naval Special Warfare Unit is going to provide communications skills and work to understand the methods of the Palauan naval security forces," Capt. Glen Remias, commodore of Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3, based out of Saipan. "The main objective will be to focus on the tactics, methods, and procedures on how to communicate internally, as well as externally."

The most advantageous as-

pect of the overall mission, which also included medical training and community relations, according to Remias, was to be purposeful in their partnership with the host country.

"The TSC mission allows us the opportunity to share useful skills sets to increase our bilateral partnerships with the Republic of Palau," he said.

Electronics Technology Specialist 1st Class Joshua McMann, a communication technician with NSWU-1, helped facilitate the training



TIMOTHY WILSON

Information Technology Specialist 1st Class Timothy Lout, attached to Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 on Guam, establishes satellite communications with other members of Palauan security forces in Koror on Dec. 9.

and shared best practices with security forces from Palauan police, fire, and emergency departments.

"This training serves two distinct purposes. First of all, we are building partnerships with the Palauans within the communication field. Communications are very important in any mission that we do," McMann said. "Secondly, we are learning how our allies operate and how we can effectively work together in the future."

McMann said the benefits of

the training include increased capacity for the Palauans to assist in search-and-rescue operations and monitoring commercial fishing.

"Their professionalism is incredible and we seamlessly integrated with them to practice these skills sets," McMann said.

Among the skills sets and techniques covered were communication plans and metrics, frequency ranges and uses, radio familiarization, interagency integration of radio systems,

with hands-on training of various radio and communications gear.

"The security forces were very motivated and excited going to the training. It was good mutual training for us and them," said Information Technology Specialist 1st Class Timothy Lout, attached to NSWU-1. "We accomplished everything that we wanted to do and it was surprising for me that once we started the training, the class was very open to training and learning with us."



Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Submission Deadlines for 2014 Community Grant Applications

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council wishes to advise the public regarding the submission deadlines for Community Grant applications for the 2014 grant cycle.

The submission dates for all types of Community Grants (regular grants, mini-grants and planning grants) are:

December 27, 2013
March 28, 2014
June 27, 2014
September 26, 2014

The Council will announce grant decisions within 30-45 days of the grant deadline. The start of project activities should be planned accordingly.

Grant guidelines and forms may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, or downloaded from the Council's website: www.northernmariashumanities.org.

For more information about the Council's Community Grants Program, please contact staff at 235-4785.

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Room 105 * PMB 82 P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Donna Krum and Mt. Carmel School students participate in the Candle Lighting Remembrance Program at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Dec. 8.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

63 individuals are honored in candle lighting program

A total of 63 candles were lit in remembrance of 63 siblings and children honored on Dec. 8 during a Candle Lighting Remembrance Program at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Everyone seemed to tear up during the event, which also involved the reading of the individual names of the people being honored, reading of messages, and the showing of a video prepared by Dr. Nelson Krum.

Jill Derickson, one of the organizers of the event, said the Candle Lighting Remembrance Program was held in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends' 17th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service, which was also held on Dec. 8 in countries around the world.

She said her group is in the process of creating a CNMI chapter of The Compassionate Friends on the islands.

"Many people in our group worked very hard to make this a success. I was thrilled with the outcome. We honored 63 people by reading their names and lighting an individual candle. The readings and video were meaningful and, I suspect, touched everyone who was there. I provided about 20 boxes of Kleenex," she said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Derickson said she herself is still coping with the death of a sibling. "My sister, Debra, was murdered in 1979. It was a sudden, shocking, tragic loss to me, my family, and everyone who knew and loved her. Amazingly, here I am, still surviving, 34 years later."

She said organizations like The Compassionate Friends help people like her deal with the loss of a loved one.

"When a child dies, a child of any age, the whole world seems to crash down. Emptiness may grip you that nothing seems to fill. As shock fades away, you may feel a helplessness and depression that will leave you unable to function. The world had changed—and so have you, and it will never

'A Christmas Carol' on stage

The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands will be presenting the play *A Christmas Carol* by Michael Paller, an adaptation of the novel by Charles Dickens. The play will be staged on Dec. 18 and 19, 2013, at 7pm on both days, at the MHS Dol-

be the same again."

No parent or grandparent is ever prepared for their child or grandchild to die before them, she said. "Parental grief is intense, long-lasting, and complex. Bereaved parents may experience guilt, for having outlived their child. The community may discount grief when an adult child dies from a cause that makes others feel uncomfortable, or judgmental."

That's why forming a group like The Compassionate Friends in the local community is essential, Derickson said. "Although each bereaved person travels a unique path through their own grief, in our experience, the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild causes a pain that is often best understood by others who have also experienced such a loss."

Started in 1997, the Worldwide Candle Lighting Service is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting event in the globe. It is held at the same time in each time zone around the world.

Aside from the CNMI, which unofficially held the event, the Worldwide Candle Lighting Service was also observed in New Zealand, Guam, Australia, the Philippines, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, England, South Africa, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, North and South America, and Hawaii.

The Compassionate Friends is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchild or friend, and helps others better assist grieving families.

The local group's monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, at 6:30pm in the NMPASI conference room. For more information, call Derickson at 287-5337 or email her at jill@pticom.com. (*Mark Rabago*)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1356 Mednilla Lane, Capitol Hill, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 664-3196, Facsimile no. (670) 664-3197

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Department of Labor will be conducting an Agricultural Prevailing Wage Survey including logging activities, crops, or other agricultural activities/commodities within the CNMIs agricultural sector on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. This survey is made possible by a grant under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration Foreign Labor Certification Grant.

The Department appreciates the cooperation and assistance of all farmers in assisting the department's staff in fulfilling this project.

For additional information, please call Ms. Bobbie T. Sablan, Administrative Services Manager at 664-3196.

EPA program seeks to improve air quality in port communities

» \$4 million grant program to clean older diesel engines at ports

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the availability of \$4 million in grant funding to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing emissions from marine and inland water ports, many of which are in areas that face environmental justice challenges.

"Ports are essential to the nation's economy and transportation infrastructure, but they also are home to some of the nation's toughest environmental challenges," said Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "These grants will help port authorities to provide immediate emissions reductions that will benefit those who work and live in port-side communities."

Most of the country's busiest ports are located near large metropolitan areas and, as a result, people in nearby communities can be exposed to high levels of diesel emissions. Older diesel engines can emit large amounts of air pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants are linked to a range of serious health problems including asthma,

lung and heart disease, other respiratory ailments, and even premature death. Clean diesel projects at ports, employing readily available technology, will make immediate emissions reductions and provide health benefits.

This grant competition is available under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act Program, or DERA, and is the first competition to focus on solely reducing emissions at ports. DERA funds are used to clean up the legacy fleet of diesel engines that were produced before more recent environmental standards. This grant competition is intended to help solve some of the complex air quality issues in port communities.

Under this competition, EPA anticipates awarding between two and five assistance agreements to port authorities through the DERA program.

Port authorities, governmental or public agencies that operate ports, are able to work directly with a variety of fleet owners to lower emissions from different types of equipment used in a port setting. Projects may include drayage trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and cargo handling equipment at marine or inland ports. Priority

For more information and to access the Request for Proposals and other documents, visit <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/ports/ports-dera-rfp.htm>. (EPA)

will be given to ports located in areas of poor air quality.

The objectives of the assistance offered under this program are to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution reduced and reductions in diesel emissions exposure from fleets operating at ports. The program also seeks to build partnerships among port stakeholders to promote ongoing efforts to reduce emissions from port operations. Community groups, local governments, terminal operators, shipping carriers, and other business entities are encouraged to participate through partnerships with eligible port authorities.

The closing date for receipt of proposals is Feb. 13, 2014.

This funding opportunity is being offered in addition to EPA's annual National Clean Diesel Campaign Funding Assistance Program. EPA intends to make future awards under the NCDC Funding Assistance Program, subject to the availability of funding.

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2013 (ChST) to Mr. James Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

RFP-GOV14-030

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofsneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery terminals and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide up to one thousand (1,000) video lottery terminals that comply with identified specifications and associated gaming software and services to establish and maintain video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	30 points
a. Financial capacity (10 points) b. Gaming experience (10 points) c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Suggested Approach to Commonwealth Gaming	60 points
a. Understanding of market (10 points) b. Proposed approach (10 points) c. Proposed video lottery terminals (10 points) d. Proposed games (10 points) e. Preventative maintenance and upgrades (10 points) f. Total Costs (10 points)	
III. Required Revenue (10 points)	10 points

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2013 (ChST) to Mr. James Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV14-030 Supply of Video Lottery Terminals and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

VIDEO LOTTERY GAMING SITE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

RFP-GOV14-037

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofsneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery gaming site and services. The services requested will be to provide a site for the conduct of video lottery gaming and associated services on the Island of Saipan.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Points
1 Financial capacity of proposer	20
2 Gaming experience	20
3 Proposed gaming area	30
4 Business Plan	30
Total	100

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP-GOV-037 Video Lottery Gaming Site Proposal" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and four copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

RFP-GOV14-038

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofsneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of video lottery central control system and associated services. The Commonwealth is seeking a qualified supplier to provide a system for monitoring and control of a proposed video lottery gaming operation up that complies with identified specifications to facilitate establishment of a video lottery gaming operations on the Island of Saipan for a twenty-year period.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on December 16, 2013 from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element	Possible Points
I. Resources of proposer	25 points
a. Financial resources (15 points) b. Gaming experience (15 points) c. Entity resources (10 points)	
II. Proposed Commonwealth Central Control	25 points
a. Proposed hardware (10 points) b. Proposed software (20 points) c. Monitoring and Reporting capacity d. Security, Testing, and flexibility	
III. Cost Projections	25 points
IV. Revenue Requirements	25 points
Total	100 points

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2014 (ChST) to James R. Stump at the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP14-GOV-038 Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System and Associated Services" and in compliance with the request for proposal structure and include an original and six (6) copies and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. Proposer bears all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

Marpac, 7th Day Adventist, CUC clean up adopted highways

The Department of Public Works and its Adopt-a-Highway Program would like to give its appreciation to Marpac, Seventh Day Adventist, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for their support and active participation in the program.

Marpac was out cleaning the intersection of the traffic light at Quarter Master Road last weekend, cleaning the areas around the railings and drainage system.

SDA is responsible for cleaning the stretch of the road shoulders of Quarter Master Road.

CUC does their cleanup once a month, picking up trash from the WWII tank on Beach Road going north to the 13 Fisher-

men's pavilion.

Priority Care is scheduled to be out this Sunday to clean their adopted site, which is from the intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to Do it Best Hardware. DPW is asking motorists to exercise caution this Sunday between 8am to 2pm when passing by this area.

The program is scheduled to have its first quarter cleanup next month and is informing their participants to start planning for this occasion. The date will be announced later this month. For more information, contact AAH coordinator Jack Sablan at 235-9570, 235-5827. (DPW)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO LEASE AND OPERATE A LIMITED FOOD & BEVERAGE CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CPA-RFP-003-14

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites the submission of a proposal to lease and operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals prepared in accordance with instructions stated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be received and accepted by the CPA until 4:30 p.m., January 6, 2014. Late proposals will not be considered. The CPA is not responsible for late or misdirected delivery of proposals.

The proposal packages and other consideration may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning December 6, 2013 during the hours of 7:30 to 4:30 upon the payment of \$50.00. This payment is nonrefundable. Payments shall be made at the Accounting Office which is located at the 2nd floor on the Departure Terminal in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

One original and two copies of the proposals shall be submitted in a sealed package and clearly marked on the outside "Proposal to Lease and Operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession CPA-RFP-003-14."

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO LEASE AND OPERATE FOOD & BEVERAGE CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CPA-RFP-004-14

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites the submission of a proposal to lease and operate a Food & Beverage Concession at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals prepared in accordance with instructions stated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be received and accepted by the CPA until 4:30 p.m., January 6, 2014. Late proposals will not be considered. The CPA is not responsible for late or misdirected delivery of proposals.

The proposal packages and other consideration may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning December 6, 2013 during the hours of 7:30 to 4:30 upon the payment of \$50.00. This payment is nonrefundable. Payments shall be made at the Accounting Office which is located at the 2nd floor on the Departure Terminal in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

One original and two copies of the proposals shall be submitted in a sealed package and clearly marked on the outside "Proposal to Lease and Operate Food & Beverage Concession CPA-RFP-004-14."

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-035

Submission Date: January 09, 2014

Time: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2013 MOBILITY EQUIPPED VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

The specifications for this project will be available on or after December 16, 2013 at COTA, Office of the Special Assistant for Public Transportation, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

This is a federally funded project; bidders are required to comply with FTA federal contract clauses as applicable.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-036

Submission Date: January 09, 2014

Time: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2013 MOBILITY EQUIPPED VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

The specifications for this project will be available on or after December 16, 2013 at COTA, Office of the Special Assistant for Public Transportation, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

This is a federally funded project; bidders are required to comply with fta federal contract clauses as applicable.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Sgt. 1st Class Gerald M. Paulino, left, communications noncommissioned officer for Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, discusses a mission turnover with Sgt. 1st Class Paul Prydz, communications NCO for 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Dec. 8 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

By SGT. EDWARD SIGUENZA
1-294TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan—Task Force Guam is counting down its last remaining commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom 2013. Although exact departure dates cannot be released due to operations security, the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, began prepping its Afghanistan exodus weeks ago and anxiously awaits important upcoming movement.

However, there's still a lot that needs to be done. Guam needs to complete its last mission responsibilities and that means securing everything it had logically obtained and properly accounting for personnel and property before leaving Afghanistan.

"We want to make sure that everything is handed off properly to our replacements," said Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, Task Force Guam commander. "Our goal is to make things easier for the unit arriving soon. We will be share lessons learned from the issues we had to overcome and relate what worked for us. We want to make this transition easy and problem-free for both commands."

Guam's final countdown looks something like this:

10 Approximate number of days until Task Force Guam's first wave of bodies starts leaving Afghanistan. It'll take a few trips to send close to 600 soldiers out of the country, and even more of an effort to bring together the soldiers who were stationed at more than a dozen locations throughout the country.

9 Months that have passed since Guam's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment em-

barked on this historic mission. First stop: Camp Shelby, Miss., where soldiers received validation and pre-deployment training. Task Force Guam began its OEF mission in April.

8 Average number of hours it'll take to fly from a European destination—the initial site Guam soldiers will head to when leaving Afghanistan—to United States soil. Guam soldiers will still have to medically and administratively out-process at its de-mobilization station. Unfortunately, this will take a few days.

7 The number of subordinate companies the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment brought to Afghanistan that will successfully complete this historic OEF. Guam has never sent a battalion-sized element to any military operation.

6 Task Force Guam occupied all six regional commands of the International Security Assistance Force, the organization of coalition forces assigned to assist the Afghan National Security Forces.

5 Times 10 and in pounds, the average weight of body armor a soldier carries around when on a mission. This includes the tactical vest, ammunition, weapon and necessities

(like snacks) a soldier drapes on his body almost every day. This is important information because, in a few weeks, it will no longer be a concern.

4 Words in the phrase, "We're coming home soon!"

3 Number of Yellow Ribbon ceremonies during the upcoming reintegration process. These will occur at different times throughout 2014.

2 Approximate number of days after Task Force Guam transfers authority to its replacements—2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army—will send its final batch of troops out of Afghanistan.



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

From left: Spc. Justin K.T. Wright, Sgt. 1st Class Dan D. Pocague and Staff Sgt. Erico M. Santos of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, take a break at North Kaia, Kabul, Afghanistan in one of their final Operation Enduring Freedom missions in early December.

The 508th will officially succeed Guam at the conclusion of a late-December ceremony.

1 The loneliest number won't be much longer once 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment and its 550-plus Chamorro warriors return home and everyone becomes one big happy family—once again.

The 508th will make its fourth OEF mission since 2007, according to Lt. Col. Andrew S. Zieseniss, 508th commander. The 508th, from Fort Bragg, N.C., will operate as Task Force 2-Fury.

Coincidentally, when a company-sized Guam Guard element supported OEF in 2008, Guam's last Afghani-

stan mobilization, its replacement was also from the 82nd Airborne Division.

Task Force Guam relieved

Task Force Centurion—1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment from the Alabama Army National Guard—in April.

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DLNR/DFW-034
Submission Date: January 09, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

**"GOLDEN WHITE-EYE RESEARCH
A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"**

Copies of the Scope of Work and specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Arnold I. Palacios
Secretary of DLNR

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2013-CDA-05-RFP**

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKET FEASIBILITY STUDY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2013-CDA-06-RFP**

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKETING PLAN FOR CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

Arroyo tops 'My Tomboy' tilt in 'Paskong Pinoy'

Hundreds, mostly families, trooped Saturday to the Garapan Central Park, where the United Filipino Organization held its successful Paskong Pinoy 2013 festivities.

The talent contest "My Tomboy in Saipan" proved to be the event's highlight, as many people watched and enjoyed the first ever such competition on Saipan. The contest was patterned after the "That's My Tomboy" segment of ABS-CBN's popular variety TV show "Showtime."

Frauline G. Arroyo, going by the moniker "Kute," bagged the title as "Mr. Tomboy in Saipan" after besting two other contestants. Arroyo, a graphics artist, brought down the house when she danced to South Korean Psy's K-pop hit *Gentleman*, followed by Michael Jackson's *Bad*.

Nancy Cabaluna, also known as Cito, won second place, while Jenena D. Sollestre, also known as B-Jay, was third. Cabaluna and Sollestre received thunderous applause from the audience with their powerful songs.

The United Filipino Organization put up a total prize money of \$1,000: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place.

Five registered for the contest, but two backed out at the last minute due to unavoidable circumstances.

Rovic "RV" Caberos of Magic 100.3 FM KWAW served as the guest emcee for the competition.

In the singing contest for kids, 7-year-old Lawrence Tubera received the \$100 first place prize



Mr. Tomboy contestants Jenena D. Sollestre, Nancy Cabaluna, and Frauline Arroyo receive their prizes and certificates of appreciation from the United Filipino Organization for participating in the contest. Also in the photo are UFO president Annamae Adaza, extreme left, contest judge Adrea Sablan, event committee chair Nelida Atalig, and emcee DJ Rovic Caberos.



Emcee Minda Castro, left, and United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, present the prizes to the winners of the singing contest for kids. Lawrence Tubera, fourth from left, won first place, while Leonard Manuel Alla, center, won second place, and Donato Santiago Jr. got third place.



Erica Faye Tubera and her siblings, Justine and Lawrence, sing *Just Give Me a Reason*.



Allen's School of Dance performers wow the crowd with their Whoops Kiri Whoops dance presentation. The group also receive loud of applause from the audience with several other dance numbers.

after besting two other contestants.

Leonard Manuel Alla, 12, got \$75 cash as second placer, while Donato Santiago Jr., 8, got \$50 for third place.

When *Saipan Tribune* left at 9:30pm, the singing competition for adults was still ongoing.

The winners of the lantern competition were also awarded cash prizes.

"Paskong Pinoy," which means Filipino Christmas, was a non-stop entertainment as many performers joined the event that kicked off in the afternoon. Gov. Eloy S. Inos graced the festivities and delivered brief remarks.

Several non-food vendors and food vendors participated. The major sponsors were Docomo Pacific, LBC Mabuhay, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The performers included High Pitch Band with Rolly Capayas, Bernice Shane Sabino, J.R. "The Yoyo Boy" Barro, Walden and Violy Band, HDMP Group from Hopwood Junior High School, Uncle Ben's Dream Academy Stars, the *man'amko* group, Cornerstone Church, Erica Faye Tubera and her siblings Justine and Lawrence, and Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club.

UFO president Annamae Adaza and Minda Castro served as the emcees of the event. Nelida Atalig chairs the 2013 Paskong Pinoy committee. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Frauline G. Arroyo's *Gentleman* dance number receives wild applause from the audience. Arroyo won the top prize in the first ever "Mr. Tomboy in Saipan" talent contest.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club entertains the audience with Christmas carols.



Members of the Cornerstone Church sing Christmas carols during the Paskong Pinoy 2013 festivities at the Garapan Central Park on Saturday.

Marines, sailors perfect low-altitude air defense techniques

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Marines with 2nd Low-Altitude Air Defense gave a professional military education class to the pilots and airmen with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 on Dec. 11 at Tinian's North Field.

The training allows the squadrons to understand 2nd LAAD's implied missions including entry control points, quick reaction force, convoy security, combat patrols and base defense operations center during Exercise Forager Fury II.

Forager Fury II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.

HSC-25 is stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The Marines are with 2nd LAAD currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

"It's good joint training between the Navy and Marine Corps. It defines that 'one team to the fight' aspect," said Navy Lt.j.g. Fletcher Wasson, MH-60S Seahawk pilot, HSC-25. "The PME itself was beneficial because it gave the pilots and airmen a good insight into the capabilities and limitations of stinger missiles, which is one of [the U.S. military's] assets but also one of the assets of our enemy."

The PME also covered functions and capabilities of the FI-92 stinger launcher as part of FFII, which allows Marines and sailors to join forces to expand aviation capabilities.

"Within seconds of the radio call to engage the aircraft, we can have missiles in the sky," said Cpl. Kristopher Biegel, gunner with 2nd LAAD. "It's a fire-and-forget missile so after you fire you can set the launcher

down and move on to the next one if necessary. It can engage multiple aircrafts including helicopter, drones, and jets."

HSC-25 is participating in Forager Fury II executing close air support training as well as sea combat search and rescue, according to Capt. Joshua Anderson, commanding officer with 2nd LAAD. However, close-air support would not be successful if there were no appropriate ground defense tactics.

"We're providing ground-base air defense in support of North Field on Tinian, denying the enemy to hit crucial assets on Tinian's North Field," said Anderson. "It really brings the expeditionary nature of what we do to the forefront because we're not focusing on big troop movements, we're focusing on the finely-tuned applications of force throughout an expeditionary battle space."

With operations on Tinian providing unique opportunities for Marines and sailors to exercise specific unit capabilities and, FFII increases MAG-12's operational readiness and improve their core expeditionary combat capabilities.

"Working in these conditions has been challenging, but this is exactly what we do as an expeditionary helicopter combat squadron and the only forward helicopter squadron in the United States Navy," said Wasson.

Along with hosting HSC-25, Forager Fury II is the first exercise in the Pacific to have a LAAD unit involved in the training since the resumption of the unit deployment program, according to Anderson.

"This brings a lot of new environments, new opportunities and new people for the Marines to work with," said Anderson. "They're getting the opportunity to train in an austere environment, which is relatively new for us in this [military occupational specialty]."



Cmd. Greg Leland practices using a FI-92 stinger launcher on Dec. 11 at Tinian's North Field after a professional military education class given to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 participating in Exercise Forager Fury II.



Cpl. Kristopher Biegel, right, attaches a trainer ignition cap to a FI-92 stinger launcher on Dec. 11 at Tinian's North Field during a professional military education class to crew members with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 participating in Exercise Forager Fury II.

Widower dreading Christmas will feel better by reaching out



By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is coming, and I dread it. I have only my brother, his wife and their kids. I'm on Social Security disability and I barely make it each month. They buy me gifts, but I feel embarrassed to accept them because I can't buy anything for them. It makes me feel small.

Even though I have nothing to offer my nieces, my brother and sister-in-law persuade me to go anyway. They are financially much better off than I am.

I lost my wife a year ago. I see everyone else having someone in their lives and I feel alone. There's just me and my dog now. The holidays hurt. What can I do?

MISERABLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MISERABLE: You have something to give to your

relatives. It's the gift of your PRESENCE. If you have a talent, share it with them.

Because this is your first Christmas without your wife, it's no wonder you feel alone. At this time of year, many people do. A way to lessen the sense of isolation would be to do something for someone else. If you're able, volunteer at a food bank, a homeless shelter, a senior center. It will give you less time to brood, and you will feel welcome and needed.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently went on a first (and last) date with a "gentleman." He ordered himself a beer and a prime rib dinner. He never asked me if I wanted anything to eat or drink.

As flabbergasted as I was, I have a theory: Men today ARE different from those of the past, and my guess it's because the pierced and tattooed gals today speak and act like sailors, therefore ruining it for the rest of us. Am I right?

PUZZLED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PUZZLED: No. You need to speak up! The RULES OF DATING have changed over the last decades. Many women expect—and prefer—to pay for their own meal and drinks on a first date. It has nothing to do with whether they are tattooed or use four-letter words. They like their independence, and some-

times earn more than their dates do.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After 25 years of marriage, my wife no longer wants to shave her legs. She is starting to look like a gorilla. I think it's a slap in the face. She says it has nothing to do with me. I don't know if I should move to another zoo or buy her some bananas.

PEEVED IN POUGHKEEPSIE

DEAR PEEVED: This may be your wife's way of rebelling, just as some retired men forgo shaving because they no longer "have" to. Or, the winters in Poughkeepsie may be so cold she feels she needs the insulation. Stay in the zoo you're used to—after all, it's home. (If it's causing problems in your marital relations, close your eyes and pretend it's cashmere.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Would it be a breach of etiquette to enclose a self-addressed, stamped (blank) thank-you note with gifts I plan to send to my grandchildren, since they do not respond when I mail them gifts or cards?

GRANDMA IN MARSHFIELD, MO.

DEAR GRANDMA: I think it's a great idea as a last resort—and no, it would not be a breach of etiquette to do so.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



YEP, CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
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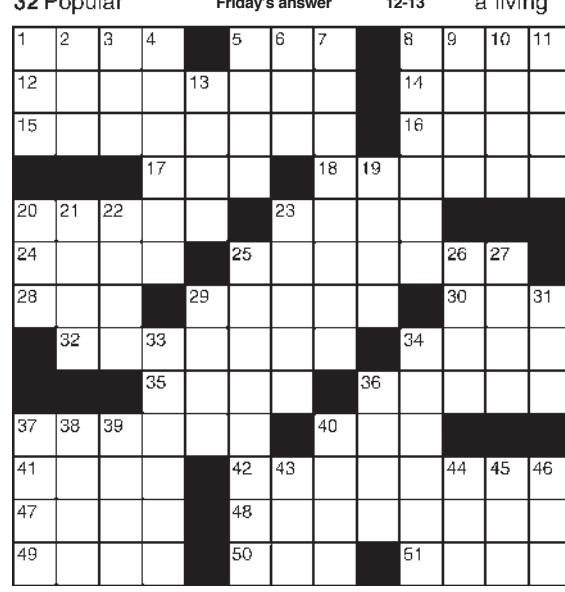
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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Friday's answer 12-13 a living



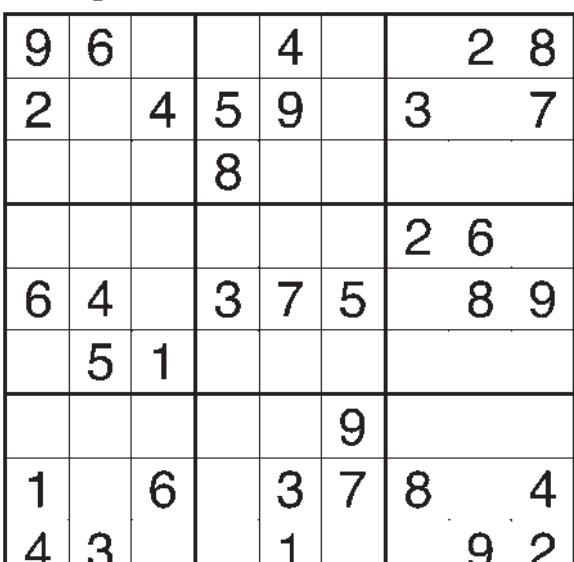
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Conceptis Sudoku

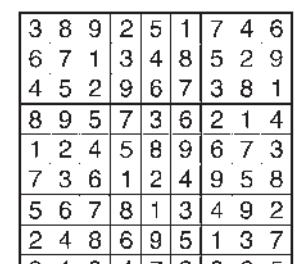
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

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I N C R U M M I A N A M H N S
S E I O V B O H G O A Y C G A
M I R S G A H O C H B O T W N
R R F H B N K N E G A R A E D
O A A A A E O K U S E L T N D
T H F N S T E R T S V R R A U
S A O A E D E L E I O C E A N
D L M L L V I D S L A T E M E
N A E O I N O T O K I H S O S
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Last Friday's Answer: Wild Child
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More famous Jameis: Winston wins Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (AP)—Jameis Winston left voters no choice but to give him the Heisman Trophy. And like every other Florida State victory this season, it was a blowout.

The quarterback they call Famous Jameis became the youngest Heisman winner and the second straight freshman to win the trophy Saturday night, earning college football's most prestigious individual trophy award with a performance so dominant even a criminal investigation couldn't derail his candidacy.

"I cannot explain the feeling that I have inside right now," Winston said. "I'm so overwhelmed. It's awesome."

When his name was announced, he popped from his seat and quickly made his way to his mom and dad for hugs and kisses. He smiled and laughed through most of his acceptance speech.

He talked about trusting in the "process" on the field and in life and "after all the things I've been through this past month." He got choked up a bit when talking about his parents.

"When you see your mom and you see your dad and they've been struggling through this whole process and now you see a smile on their face, it comforted me," he said later.

Winston received 668 first-place votes and 2,205 points. He finished 1,501 points ahead of Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron for the seventh-largest margin of victory in Heisman history, despite being left off 115 of the 900 ballots returned.

Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch was third, followed by Boston College's Andre Williams, Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel and Auburn's Tre Mason.

Manziel was the first freshman to win the Heisman last year, and was trying to join



football player whose performance best exhibits the pursuit of excellence with integrity."

It's a statement that has put the Heisman in awkward situations before. In 2010, Cam Newton played the season under the cloud of an NCAA investigation. He had also had legal troubles while in college. But like Winston, there was no doubt he was the best player and he won the award.

Reggie Bush had his 2005 Heisman stripped after the NCAA determined he had violated its rules during that season. But the Heisman trust did not ask Billy Cannon and O.J. Simpson to return their Heismans after they were sent to prison.

The accusations against Winston were serious and documents released by the police with the accuser's allegations were not flattering to him. It probably explains why so many voters left him out of their top

three. Last year, Manziel appeared on 92 percent of the ballots. Winston appeared on 87 percent this year.

"Everyone has their own opinion," Winston said. "It's basically a numbers game and I was blessed to have the majority vote."

There was no doubt his on-the-field credentials. Winston is on pace (190.1) to break Russell Wilson's record for best passer efficiency rating in a season and set FBS freshman records for yards passing (3,820) and touchdown passes (38). Florida State's average margin of victory is 42 points, and Winston has spent most of the Seminoles' fourth quarters resting.

The investigation has taken some of the shine off Winston's Heisman coronation, at least for some people. But if the question is simply who was college football's best player in 2013, Famous Jameis was the clear answer.

Yanks say Cano got respect, just not \$200M

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees had plenty of praise for Robinson Cano, just not the money he wanted.

"Bouquets. Bouquets. Bouquets. I'll throw him bouquets all he wants," general manager Brian Cashman said, "But I couldn't throw him \$235 million."

Cashman and Yankees officials spoke Friday, a day after the All-Star second baseman finalized a \$240 million, 10-year contract with the Seattle Mariners.

"I think he was very disappointed that he's not a New York Yankee anymore. I think anybody would be disappointed when you leave the New York Yankees," team President Randy Levine said. "We treated him with the utmost respect. We respect him to this day."

New York's final offer was \$175 million over seven years.

"We made an offer we were comfortable with making. It fell far short of obviously where Seattle was," Cashman said. "So, in terms of respect, they showed a lot more respect financially than we did."

A season from free agency, Cano asked last spring for a \$310 million, 10-year agreement. Cashman said before the deal with the Mariners, agents Brodie Van Wagenen and Jay Z called Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner and the GM, then said Cano would accept a \$235 million deal to remain with New York.

Cano's contract matches the fourth-largest in baseball history. New York's offer, while for less guaranteed money, would have equaled the third-highest average salary of \$25 million.

Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner wasn't disappointed with Cano's remarks but was "a little surprised."

"There was nothing disre-

Ohio State's Archie Griffin as a two-time winner. Instead, Winston made it two redshirt freshman winners in the 79-year history of the Heisman. He also became the youngest winner at 23 days short of 20.

The 19-year-old also was investigated last month for a year-old sexual assault complaint, but no charges were filed and the case was closed four days before Heisman votes were due.

"I really believe that people actually just trusted me. People obviously saw us play. But that comes from my team, too," Winston said.

Winston is the nation's top-rated passer and has led the top-ranked Seminoles (13-0) to a spot in the BCS championship game against No. 2 Auburn on

Jan. 6, his birthday. The former five-star recruit from Bessemer, Ala., made college football look easy from his very first game. On Labor Day night, on national television, Winston went 25 for 27 for 356 yards and four touchdowns in a victory at Pittsburgh.

"I can't explain how truly intelligent he is," Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said. "He always wanted to know why he had success or why he had failure so he could either repeat it or fix it."

There wasn't much failure on the way to becoming the third Seminoles quarterback to win the Heisman. The last was Chris Weinke in 2000.

Winston and Florida State were cruising toward an unde-

with third baseman Adrian Beltre. He was on the DL for 90 days in 2012, when he dislocated his right shoulder when sliding into Rays shortstop Reid Brignac while trying to break up a double-play in Boston's home opener.

"I play the game hard. I play the game I feel like the right way," Ellsbury said. "It was just two unfortunate things."

He didn't go on the DL this year, when he was limited to 134 games by a broken bone in his right foot that he played on throughout the postseason before it completely healed.

"I already made my mind up I would play in the postseason no matter how it felt," he said. "There was a risk - a foul ball off my foot. ... The reward was worth the risk."

New York general manager

Ellsbury shifts from Yanks' 'thorn' to 'flower'

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Giardi is happy to see Jacoby Ellsbury in Yankees pinstripes instead of the uniform of the rival Boston Red Sox.

"You are going to make my job a lot easier," the New York manager told his new outfielder. "You no longer are a thorn in my side. You are a flower in our clubhouse, and I'm happy to have you."

Ellsbury agreed to a \$153 million, seven-year contract Dec. 3, and the deal was completed four days later. He was formally introduced Friday at a Yankee Stadium news conference, part of an offseason transformation that has seen New York add Brian McCann and Carlos Beltran while watching Robinson Cano depart.

Ellsbury will wear No. 22 with the Yankees, taking over the number of Roger Clemens, another Boston star who



moved south to New York.

No. 2, Ellsbury's uniform with the Red Sox, belongs to Yankees captain Derek Jeter. Ellsbury was No. 23 in college, but that's retired in honor of Don Mattingly. And Ellsbury started his big league career with No. 46, which was worn by Andy Pettitte and isn't being given out any time soon, if at all.

"Twenty-two, I've never worn that number, but 2 is my favorite number, so why not have two of them?" Ellsbury said.

A lefty-hitting leadoff man, the 30-year-old led the majors with 52 steals despite a broken foot late this season. He finished with a .298 average, nine homers and 53 RBIs.

Ellsbury spent 158 days on the disabled list in 2010 after breaking ribs in a collision

with All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano, who left for a \$240 million, 10-year deal with Seattle.

"We have to start moving now," Cashman remembered telling his bosses. "And to move early, you have to step up and separate yourself from the pack."

Ellsbury's deal calls for salaries of \$21,142,857.15 per season and includes a \$21 million team option for 2021 with a \$5 million buyout. Ellsbury gets a full no-trade provision and the right to purchase six Legends Suite tickets per year.

"When we signed Derek Jeter to a 10-year contract, I believe he was 26. In that context, it makes sense. If Mike Trout was here, I would recommend a 10-year contract. But for people over 30, I don't believe it makes sense."

Trout, a 22-year-old star on the Los Angeles Angels, was second in AL MVP voting in each of the last two seasons. He is eligible for free agency after the 2017 season.

James scores 25 as Heat hold off Cavs, 114-107

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 25 points against his former team, leading the Miami Heat to a 114-107 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA on Saturday.

Dwyane Wade added 24 points and Chris Bosh had 22 for the Heat, who squandered a 19-point third-quarter lead and rallied from a two-point deficit with eight unanswered points late in the fourth quarter.

Ray Allen's two free throws with 2:16 remaining capped the run and put the Heat ahead 106-100. Mario Chalmers' corner 3-pointer with 1:36 left increased the lead to 109-101.

Kyrie Irving scored 19 points for the Cavaliers, who played the second half without coach Mike Brown. He was ejected late in the second quarter after he stormed onto the court looking for a foul on Shane Battier's block of Alonzo Gee's layup.

Bosh had a season-high 12 rebounds and James was one rebound and assist short of a triple-double.

Trail Blazers 139, 76ers 105

In Philadelphia, LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and 16 rebounds, Nicolas Batum added 17 points and Portland set a franchise record for 3-pointers with 21 against skidding Philadelphia.

Damian Lillard scored 16 and Dorell Wright had 15 on 5-for-5 shooting from beyond the arc. Wesley Matthews added 14 points for the Northwest Division leaders, who won their third in a row and improved to 20-4. They became the second NBA team to reach 20 wins, joining the Indiana



Clippers 113, Wizards 97

In Washington, Chris Paul had 38 points and 12 assists as Los Angeles shared the ball impeccably in a win over Washington.

The Clippers shot 56 percent to finish 4-3 on a road trip that included six Eastern Conference teams, leaving them 6-6 on the season against the pedestrian East and 10-3 against the mighty West.

Paul went 11 for 14 from the field, including 5 for 7 from 3-point range, and made all 11 of his free throws. Jamal Crawford, making his first start since April 2012, finished with 17 points. Blake Griffin added 16 points and nine rebounds. Jared Dudley also had 16 points.

John Wall had 24 points and 12 assists for the Wizards, who have lost four straight since reaching .500 for the first time since 2009. They have lost seven in a row when Nene (foot) doesn't play and are 3-24 without the Brazilian forward since the beginning of last season.

Lakers 88, Bobcats 85

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kobe Bryant scored a season-high 21 points as Los Angeles defeated Charlotte for its first win since Bryant returned



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) drives around Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Jack (1) for two points during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013. AP

from a torn Achilles tendon four games ago.

Bryant was 8 of 15 from the field and hit two free throws with 37 seconds left to put the Lakers ahead for good after

they trailed most of the game. Pau Gasol and Jordan Hill had 15 points apiece for Los Angeles. Nick Young scored 13 off the bench. Kemba Walker had 24

ON THE PRECIPICE

Everything in the nation's capital indicates Mike Shanahan is a goner. He's been heavily criticized for the handling of Robert Griffin III in last season's play-off game; for his use of RG3 as the quarterback was coming off a knee injury sustained in that game; for a passing offense that has lost its way; and for a defense that has lost all mojo in Washington (3-10). The Redskins have the worst special teams in the NFL under a coordinator hand-picked by Shanahan this season from his old Denver days.

That Shanahan and Griffin have publicly clashed this year, along with this week's benching of RG3, doesn't help the two-time Super Bowl winner's case with an owner known for his impatience.

Frazier also is on slippery turf. The Vikings (3-9-1) do play hard, if not very well, and without the sensational Adrian Peter-

son in their backfield, they would be even closer to earning that top overall draft pick. In-game strategy has been shaky, particularly in tight games. The defense this year has been awful, especially at the end of games, losing a late-fourth-quarter lead five times and going 0-4-1 in those.

Although Frazier got Minnesota into the playoffs last season, it was virtually a one-man show by league MVP Peterson that led them there. Frazier is 19-32-1 as head coach, and there's still uncertainty at quarterback even after the first-round choice of Christian Ponder in 2011 and the signing of free agent Josh Freeman during this season.

APPROACHING THE EDGE

Munchak pretty much was handed an ultimatum in his third season in charge to get into the playoffs. That won't happen, but he did lose his quarterback, Jake Locker, for a big chunk of

points and eight assists for the slumping Bobcats, who have lost three straight and five of seven. Ben Gordon's 3-pointer fell short as time expired.

Spurs 100, Jazz 84

In Salt Lake City, Tim Duncan had 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead San Antonio to its fourth straight victory.

Tony Parker scored 15 points and Kawhi Leonard added 13 to help the Spurs coast comfortably past the Jazz after a big first-half run.

Sparked by his 23-point, 21-rebound performance against Atlanta on Dec. 2, Duncan has returned to vintage form after a slow start to the season. The 37-year-old forward is averaging 17 points and 13 rebounds over his last six games.

Trey Burke had 20 points and Gordon Hayward scored 18 for the Jazz, who shot 39 percent from the field.

Knicks 111, Hawks 106

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 35 points, Andrea Bargnani added 23 and New York pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta.

Pablo Prigioni had a season-high 11 points and was a spark in the decisive 11-0 run midway through the final period as the Knicks finished strong one night after a fourth-quarter flop cost them in Boston.

Lou Williams scored a season-high 27 points in his best game since returning from knee surgery, but the Hawks committed 27 turnovers—most in the NBA this season—that led to 36 points and negated their 60.6 percent

shooting.

Paul Millsap scored 18 but fouled out, and Al Horford finished with 17.

Mavericks 106, Bucks 93

In Dallas, Brandan Wright scored 19 points in his season debut and Jose Calderon had 18 as Dallas shrugged off the absence of Dirk Nowitzki and coach Rick Carlisle to beat Milwaukee.

Nowitzki and Carlisle missed the game with an undisclosed illness. Carlisle has been fighting an upper respiratory problem since before a four-game road trip that started last week.

Wright, who missed the first 23 games with a shoulder injury, scored seven straight points in a 19-5 run that put Dallas in control early in the second quarter.

John Henson led the Bucks with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Raptors 99, Bulls 77

In Chicago, Kyle Lowry scored 16 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 15 points and 11 rebounds in Toronto's victory over Chicago.

DeMar DeRozan scored 15 and Amir Johnson added 14 points and eight rebounds to help the Raptors earn their second win in two nights after dropping six of seven. They led by 16 early in the third and pulled away in the fourth after the gap dwindled to four, sending the Bulls to their 10th loss in 13 games.

Luol Deng led Chicago with 17 points and Mike Dunleavy Jr. scored 14. The Bulls shot just 36 percent and were 6 of 18 on 3-pointers.

SAFE-FOR NOW

Smith should have nothing to worry about. His team has been plagued by major injuries, and his track record is excellent. Players like him, so there is no dissension in the ATL.

Ryan deserves another year or two with the Jets, but might not get it because general manager John Idzik didn't hire him. New York has two (maybe) good skill players on offense, a mistake-prone rookie quarterback, and lost its best player, Darrelle Revis, in a trade to Tampa Bay the corner back basically forced. Yet the Jets are 6-7 and they get after opponents despite a lack of talent.

Schiano's situation is the most complex. While the Bucs (4-9) were dropping their first eight games and the Freeman fiasco was taking place, it looked as though his release was imminent. Then Tampa Bay began looking like a professional outfit, particularly on defense, and many of his players spoke up for Schiano.

Still, he works for owners who fired Tony Dungy and Jon Gruden.

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Gary Kubiak is out in Houston, the first NFL coach relieved of his duties. With three weeks remaining in the regular season, from North (Leslie Frazier) to South (Mike Munchak), from East (Mike Shanahan) to West (Dennis Allen), there are plenty more candidates to get canned.

Also potentially on the firing line: Rex Ryan in New York, Greg Schiano in Tampa Bay, and Mike Smith in Atlanta.

A coach's shelf life in the NFL depends on far too many factors for them to ever truly feel secure. Indeed, only Bill Belichick in New England, Marvin Lewis in Cincinnati and Tom Coughlin in New York have held their jobs since 2004.

Injuries, changes in upper management or ownership, free agency, the draft—they all contribute to success and failure. Coaches have no control over the first two and might have limited input for the other two.

Kubiak out, more NFL coaches to get canned

ON THE PRECIPICE

The record rarely matches expectations of the people who own teams, which is when patience is required most. When a team totally collapses and becomes an embarrassment to the franchise, as the Texans have done in 2013, there's little choice what to do.

"I think the last straw was losing," Texans owner Bob McNair said after firing Kubiak, the only coach to get Houston into the playoffs.

McNair was thinking Super Bowl this year and now is preparing to possibly lead off next spring's draft.

"We've got a lot better talent than Jacksonville and to lose to them twice—to their credit they played harder, played smarter," he said, "and to have them beat us on that is not acceptable."

Here's which coaches on the hot seat figure to have done enough to remain acceptable to their bosses, and which ones likely will be looking for work in 2014.

Frazier also is on slippery turf. The Vikings (3-9-1) do play hard, if not very well, and without the sensational Adrian Peter-

son in their backfield, they would be even closer to earning that top overall draft pick. In-game strategy has been shaky, particularly in tight games. The defense this year has been awful, especially at the end of games, losing a late-fourth-quarter lead five times and going 0-4-1 in those.

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APPROACHING THE EDGE

Munchak pretty much was handed an ultimatum in his third season in charge to get into the playoffs. That won't happen, but he did lose his quarterback, Jake Locker, for a big chunk of



Pacquiao denies he owes IRS \$18M

By AQUILES Z. ZONIO
INQUIRER MINDANAO

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Eight-division boxing champion Manny Pacquiao on Wednesday said the reports that he owed more than \$18 million in taxes in the United States were the handiwork of people out to destroy him.

"This is no doubt part of a demolition job against me," Pacquiao, who holds the seat of Sarangani in the House of Representatives, told the Inquirer on the phone.

"It's not true I owe the [US Internal Revenue Service] \$18 million in back taxes," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao, who is slugging it out with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to keep for himself P2.2 billion that the tax collection agency claims he owes the government in back taxes, noted that only days ago a report came out that he was a green card holder.

"[That's] meant to discredit me," he said. "I'm not a green card holder."

On Dec. 10, the celebrity news website TMZ reported



that Pacquiao owed the IRS \$18,313,668.79 in back taxes for five years.

Broken down by year, TMZ said, Pacquiao's tax liability is \$1,160,324.30 for 2006; \$2,035,992.50 for 2007; \$2,862,437.11 for 2008; \$8,022,915.87 for 2009; and \$4,231,999.01 for 2010.

TMZ said the figures were based on official documents it had obtained, but did not publish.

Partly owned by Time Warner and based in the United States, TMZ has broken major celebrity stories, including the death of pop king Michael Jackson on June 25, 2009, hours ahead of mainstream news outlets, and the assault on R&B singer Rihanna by her boyfriend Chris Brown on Feb. 7, 2009.

Pacquiao fought 12 fights between 2006 and 2010, including the megabuck bout against Mexican-American Oscar de la Hoya in 2008 for which he pocketed a guaranteed purse of \$11 million and another \$11.2 million in pay-per-view buys.

But Pacquiao said he had paid taxes on all of his earnings from those fights.



Pacquiao

No way to run

"How can that be?" he asked, referring to the report about his supposed tax liability. "Top Rank Promotions is deducting IRS taxes automatically before giving or releasing my purse. In the US, taxes are immediately deducted from your income."

Pacquiao said there was no way he could have missed paying taxes on his US earnings.

"Even before I could climb the ring, right inside my dressing room, IRS people are already waiting. So how

can I escape from paying my taxes?" Pacquiao said.

He said Top Rank big boss Bob Arum had already taken appropriate action in the United States to clarify matters.

"Bob Arum had already issued statements in the US to set the record straight. I'm confident this issue will be cleared up," Pacquiao said.

On his website Pacland, the champ said he saw a pattern in all the "lies" being thrown at him.

He could not say, however, who were behind the attempt to discredit him.

He told the Inquirer that he was taking the TMZ report as another challenge, a test of his newfound Christian faith.

"When God and truth are on your side, who can put you down?" Pacquiao said. "I know these are all part of the test to gauge the strength of my faith in Him."

Gossip

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares thinks Pacquiao's new challenge could be "gossip."

"The reports were based on entertainment news. It could

be just gossip," Henares told the Inquirer by phone.

She said the IRS had not informed the BIR that it is running after Pacquiao for unpaid taxes.

The IRS, however, has no obligation to inform the BIR that it is going after Filipinos who owe back taxes in the United States, Henares said.

In the same way, she said, the BIR has no obligation to inform the IRS that it is running after Americans who have unpaid taxes in the Philippines.

Henares said earlier that Pacquiao was in the top 10 percent of highest tax payers from 2006 to 2008, but he slid to the top 30 percent in 2009.

It was in 2009 that Pacquiao made it to Forbes magazine's list of the world's highest-paid athletes, ranking sixth with estimated earnings of \$40 million from June 2008 to June 2009.

A BIR audit of Pacquiao's tax returns for 2008 and 2009 led to the discovery of his supposed P2.2 billion in tax liabilities in the Philippines.

Pacquiao disputed the BIR findings, leading to litigation

and a freeze on the boxing champion's bank accounts.

The two sides are discussing a settlement, but the Court of Tax Appeals has ordered them to stop talking publicly about the controversy.

Get best advisers

House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora told reporters on Wednesday that he had spoken to Pacquiao about the TMZ report.

"He says he doesn't owe the US government any taxes," Zamora said.

He said Pacquiao should use his earnings to get the best legal and financial advisers to solve his tax problems.

"If he's able to do that, then many of his problems will disappear," Zamora said.—With reports from Michelle V. Remo, Leila B. Salaverria and Ana Roa, Inquirer Research

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	14	.440	—
Toronto	9	13	.409	½
Brooklyn	8	15	.348	2
New York	7	16	.304	3
Philadelphia	7	18	.280	4

Southeast Division

Miami	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	12	12	.500	5½
Charlotte	10	14	.417	7½
Washington	9	13	.409	7½
Orlando	7	16	.304	10

Central Division

Indiana	20	3	.870	—
Detroit	11	13	.458	9½
Chicago	9	13	.409	10½
Cleveland	9	14	.391	11
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	4	.826	—
Houston	16	8	.667	3½
Dallas	14	10	.583	5½
New Orleans	11	10	.524	7
Memphis	10	12	.455	8½

Northwest Division

Portland	20	4	.833	—
Oklahoma City	18	4	.818	1
Denver	13	9	.591	6
Minnesota	11	12	.478	8½
Utah	6	20	.231	15

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	16	9	.640	—
Phoenix	13	9	.591	1½
Golden State	13	11	.542	2½
L.A. Lakers	11	12	.478	4
Sacramento	6	15	.286	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHISPERING

From Page 28

School (3-1-1), Dandan (2-0-3), San Vicente Elementary School (1-0-4), and Kagman Elementary School (0-0-5).

LEE

From Page 28

her campaign in the tournament with an impressive 6-0, 6-0 victory over the No. 14-ranked Tallie Michael Collins before scoring another upset over the fourth-seeded Laura Lawrence Ashley, 6-0, 6-2. With her back-to-back wins, Lee earned one of the eight remaining slots in the main draw, joining fellow qualifiers

Wednesday, 2-0, and forcing a 1-1 draw against GTC last Thursday. San Antonio recovered from a second round loss with a 1-0 triumph over WSR to notch the second and last finals ticket, but failed to pull

Lee was pitted against Rengiil and won the all-Pacific Team Final Four match, 6-3, 6-3, to advance to the finals against main draw entry Hana Kim. Kim earlier made it to the finals after gaining two wins via sweeps, but proved to be no match against Lee, who blanked the former in the opening set, 6-0, before cruising to a 6-2 victory in the second. Lee's second round tormentor Roso won the main

draw after downing the third-seeded Teodora Vuruna in the finals, 6-2, 7-6 (4). Meanwhile, Lee also joined the girls U14 doubles, teaming up with Anastasia Liberidis. The duo topped Collins and Georgia Tovich, 6-0, 6-1, to move into the quarterfinal round. Lee and Liberidis then bowed to the third-ranked pair of Ruby Clayton and Stephanie Hird in the Round of 8, 6-2, 6-1.

featherweight crown after getting a submission win via arm bar versus Zalaka's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona just 1:47 into the first round.

Up against a leaner, faster, and taller challenger, Duenas said his strategy was to quickly pin down Manglona and employ his much superior grappling and wrestling skills. He did just what the doctor ordered and both fighters went to the corner and grappled. They switched top positions on several occasions before Duenas outmaneuvered his foe and neutralized him with an arm bar. With the victory, Duenas improved to a 5-4 slate, while Manglona fell to a 3-2 card.

Meanwhile, in the other title bout last Friday, Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas kept his

Madison Rose Brown, Summer Jones, Jessie Burbridge, Amelia Werner, Zoe Tan, Belle Thompson, and teammate Ayana Rengiil of Palau. Lee and Palau were the only unseeded players to survive the qualifying round.

Lee went on to extend her winning run in last week's tournament with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Zoe Duff in the opening round of the main draw. Then in the second

round, eighth-ranked Alessia Roso avoided Lee's upset axe after notching a 6-2, 6-3 victory last Friday.

With the second round loss, Lee dropped to the consolation bracket where she swept her last four games to top the field. Lee first outclassed fellow qualifier Werner in the second round, 6-2, 6-0, to march into the quarterfinals where she dominated Thompson, 6-0, 6-0. Now in the semifinals,

"El Peligro" Rangamar. No title was at stake in the duel, but both fighters gave their all with Kwak eventually earning a TKO win just six minutes before the final bell rung. Kwak used his kickboxing training to dominate Rangamar in the first round, connecting on kicks to the latter's body and legs. Earlier in the opening round, a low blow from Kwak halted action, but Rangamar shook it off and worked his way back into the match in the second round. With Kwak definitely ahead in a stand-up fight, Rangamar tried using his grappling skills to gain points against his Korean foe and had some success. The Marianas Elite standout then connected some punches, causing Kwak's nose to bleed. By the end of the second

round, Rangamar and Kwak seemed pretty even so the latter went back to his kickboxing technique to thwart the former. Then just when Rangamar and the hundreds of fight fans were expecting Kwak to go for more kicks, he caught everybody off guard with a cross that brought the former down the canvas. Rangamar tried to tell D'Angelo that he was okay and can still fight back, but the official had seen enough and awarded Kwak a KO win at the 4:54 mark of the third and final round.

Despite the loss, R

The Week in Sports

Competition galore on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Competitions were plenty last week.

To start off, there was the 7th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race that drew around 180 on and off-island bikers. Japan's Kazuhiro Yamamoto went on to emerge as the top finisher in the 100-kilometer race after completing the event in 2:56:38, while Australia's Jodie Willet defended the women's championship after clocking in at 3:03:44.

Also held last week was the 2014 Marianas Football Club that featured two games. The CNMI U12 National Team played in the first match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and shut out its Guam counterpart, 4-0. In the second game, Quality Distributors edged the CNMI U19 National Team, 2-1.

At the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, two championship matches took place with Blue Haus topping the first and beating MDX/Armatech, 88-79, to take the Masters crown in the UFO caging. In the Open division, KB Market routed the Hoopaholics, 77-49.

Still in basketball, the quarterfinal cast in the DL Corp. caging

was completed. San Roque and I Love Saipan joined Pool B Top 2 finishers Island Floral and San Antonio in the Round of 8, while also qualifying were Chinatown and NMI Contractor in Pool A, which had Docomo Pacific and Fong's Bakery as the first two quarterfinalists.

In badminton, defending champion Saipan Badminton Club was the first one to advance to the title game in the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament. Shirley's Badminton Club and Community Badminton Club fought for the second and last finals ticket, while Golden Racquet dropped to the consolation round, and Taga Badminton Club was eliminated.

In volleyball, Saipan International School clinched the championship in the boys varsity division of the 2013-2014 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League after beating Grace Christian Academy, 25-16, 25-21.

In the 2013 CFLA Youth Football Warrior/Midget League, the Eastern Lighting got its second victory after dominating the Northern Saints, 48-12, at the Airport Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI U19 National Team's Scott Kim dribbles away from his defender during their game against Quality Distributors in the 2013 Marianas Football Club held last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Francis Rebuyon pulls up for a shot against Armatex's Haejun Park, right, and Peter Crisostomo during their title game in the UFO Masters caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bikers negotiate the challenging Kagman road during last week's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KB Market's Marlon De Dios beats the Hoopaholics' Dexter Tenorio in a battle for the loose ball during their title game in the UFO Open caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Saipan International School player goes for a hit near the net during their title game against Grace Christian Academy in the boys varsity division of the COPSSA volleyball league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Guam players fight for possession during their game against the CNMI U12 National Team in the 2013 Marianas Football Cup played last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

I Love Saipan's Gyles Ruluked pulls up for a running jumper against CJ Signs' Herbert Maranan during their playoff game in the DL Corp. caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Winston wins Heisman Trophy PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Whispering Palms takes IFL title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms School capped its perfect run in the girls division of the 2013-2014 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Football League with a 1-0 title win over San Antonio Elementary School last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

It was Whispering Palms' first championship in the U12 competition, joining the company of former winners Williams Gillian Villagomez, and Shea Basham. Jeff Race and Mark Epley coached Whispering Palms.

ly of former winners Williams S. Reyes Elementary School (2008), Dandan Elementary School (2009), Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (2010 and 2012), and Oleai Elementary School (2011).



G u i n e v e r e

Borja made the lone goal in the title match, scoring in the 23rd minute of the 40-minute game. Borja was eventually handed the Golden Boot award for making the most goals in the season, while teammate Amber Montenegro took the Golden Glove plum. Joining Borja and Montenegro on the champion team were Makena Carrasco, Subin Cho, Ellie Epley, Erin Frink, Maria Gregoire, Mia Hirsh, Marina Inoue, Sally Lee, Jin Ju Thompson, Talia Trianni, Palms was bracketed with GTC (3-0-1), Garapan Elementary School (1-1-2), Oleai (0-2-2), and Mount Carmel School (0-1-3). Erstwhile champion GTC and Whispering Palms went on to advance to the round-robin playoffs after finishing in the Top 2 in their pool, joining Southern Group's San Antonio Elementary School (4-1-0) and WSR (3-2-0). Other schools entered in the Southern Group and missing the playoffs were Koblerville Elementary

See WHISPERING on Page 26

See WHISPERING on Page 26



Players and coaches of Whispering Palms School pose with their trophies after beating San Antonio Elementary School, 1-0, in the finals of the 2013-2014 NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Lee triumphs in Australian debut

Champs retain crowns in Trench Warz 17



ROSELYN B. MONROY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lee, who is part of the Junior ITF Pacific Touring Team that is competing in a series of tournaments in the Land Down Under, was entered in the girls U14 singles division of the event held from Dec. 11 to 15. She first had to go through a qualifying tournament to make it to the main draw and she eventually advanced after stunning two seeded foes.

1-year-old player started
See LEE on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The last fight in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions was also the fastest as Trench Tech's **T** into Round 1 of their heavyweight title bout last Friday night at the **See CHAMPIONS on Page 26**

TENCH TECH heart" Taisacan just 40 seconds into Round 1 of their heavyweight title bout last Friday night at the **See CHAMPIONS on Page 26**